





# Israel on verge of unprecedented talks with Palestinians

By Alan Elster  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Israel, under pressure from the United States, is poised to take a momentous decision to enter unprecedented peace talks with Palestinians, diplomats and analysts say.

"This is a crucial week, when months of painstaking negotiations will either come to fruition or dissolve in failure," said one Middle East diplomat. "We are cautiously optimistic."

U.S. officials, involved in delicate negotiations to get Palestinians and Israelis around a bargaining table for the first time, and Israeli and Egyptian diplomats aware of the contacts agree.

Shamir must decide whether to accept a formula handed to his foreign minister, Moshe Arens, last Friday by U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker. If he agrees, Arens and Baker would quickly convene a tripartite meeting with the foreign minister of Egypt which in turn would lead to talks in Cairo between Israel and Palestinian delegates from the occupied Arab territories.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he was sure Israel would support the latest U.S. proposal.

"I believe the proposal will get the support of the majority (of the cabinet)... the decision will be taken in the coming days, in a week or 10 days," Rabin told visiting U.S. Jewish leaders.

Rabin, a key member of Israel's dovish Labour Party, said the opportunity to move towards peace should not be missed. "We cannot be obstacles to moving ahead."

Baker's latest proposal attempts to address Israeli fears that it would be gradually

drawn into a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Israel believes is still bent on the destruction of the Jewish state.

The Labour Party, the junior partner in Shamir's national unity coalition, has threatened to bring down the government and set up its own coalition with the help of religious parties unless Shamir agrees to the talks.

On the other side, Shamir is

## NEWS ANALYSIS

under intense pressure from the right wing of his own Likud Party, rallied around rebellious ex-Minister Ariel Sharon, not to make compromises they fear will eventually erode Israel's grip over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"As far as Shamir is concerned, he's damned if he does and damned if he doesn't. But

if he says 'no', his government may well fall and that could be the decisive factor for him," said one source familiar with the negotiations.

The source said that by agreeing to go ahead, Shamir could preserve his crucial ad hoc alliance with Rabin which might represent his best chance of holding on to power.

"Everything leads me to conclude that this is a fateful week. But we can be cautiously optimistic," said John Hannah, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Baker told Arens Friday that the time for talking had run out and the time for decisions had arrived. State Department officials said Arens had agreed with this.

The key decision may well be taken when Israel's top four ministers — Shamir, Arens, Labour leader Shimon Peres and Rabin — meet Friday.

The current round of nego-

tiations began last April when Shamir proposed holding Palestinian elections in the territories, where residents have conducted a 26-month-long uprising against Israeli rule.

Baker seized on the idea and has been working towards it ever since. The Cairo meeting, should it take place, would seek to negotiate the terms of such an election.

The latest U.S. proposal contains the following elements, according to diplomatic sources:

— The Palestinian delegation would include one or two members deported by Israel from the territories, but not deportees expelled in the past two years or for alleged "terrorist offences."

— The delegation would include one or two residents of East Jerusalem who are registered to vote elsewhere on the West Bank, but they would be named as individuals and

not specifically as representatives of East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after the 1967 Middle East war.

— Egypt as host of the talks and not the PLO would announce the delegation.

— All parties would be free to make opening statements on whatever they wished in the Cairo talks but business would then concentrate exclusively on the elections.

One State Department official said Baker had now succeeded in bringing the negotiations back to where they were early this month before a group of Israeli civilians was killed in an attack in Egypt.

The fact that the process weathered that shock has encouraged officials that it has the potential to succeed.

"Traditionally, the Arab-Israeli peace process has been very fragile. So the fact that we have come this far at all is encouraging," said Hannah.

## Afghan rebels capture heights above Khost

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas have captured a ridge overlooking the besieged Khost garrison in eastern Afghanistan which puts them in easy shooting distance of the airport, a Western diplomatic source said Tuesday.

"It is clear of a height to give them a clear shot at anything at the airport," he said.

For two years Afghan guerrillas have prevented the Kabul government resupplying Khost by road and fighting around the city

close to the Pakistan border intensified last month.

Now they are in a strong position atop the Toora Ghara ridge to prevent the government from landing transport planes at the airport less than nine kilometres away, the source said.

Despite repeated counterattacks in the past week and intense bombardment, the guerrillas remain on the ridge which rises to 1,578 metres.

"If they can hold the heights it

will be important because it will be hard to supply the city," he said.

Last week a spokesman for Mujahideen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani said his forces had shot down a government transport plane bringing soldiers and ammunition to Khost.

Since the failure of their assault on Jalalabad last year, the guerrillas based in Pakistan have spoken of Khost as the next best place to install a rebel govern-

ment inside Afghanistan.

The Soviet-backed government is still trying to force through to Khost a relief column of several hundred trucks and armoured vehicles backed by air power which left Kabul in early January.

The tail end of the convoy arrived in Gardez City last week after battling its way for 110 kilometres south of Kabul. It still has around 85 kilometres of rough, mountainous terrain to cross to reach Khost.

## No sign of detente in sight on Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Across the jagged line of minefields and barbed wire that divides Cyprus, the age of detente has hardly dawned.

The United Nations has brought together the Mediterranean island's leaders in New York Monday but there is no sign of the political changes that have broken down barriers in Eastern Europe.

"Cyprus ranks with Northern Ireland as a no hope problem," said one Western diplomat here.

Contrasting statements ahead of the talks have simply underlined the divisions.

From the Greek-Cypriot side of the "green line," President George Vassiliou tried to allay fears among the Turkish-Cypriot minority, outnumbered five to one, over a proposed federation in a speech broadcast in Turkish.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rafiq Denktash responded by accusing him of resorting to deception while the Greek Cypriots build up their National Guard forces.

Neither leader, diplomats noted, offered any new proposals.

Dozens of meetings have taken place since 1974, the year Cyprus was physically divided following a Turkish invasion. Ankara intervened saying it feared for the safety of Turkish Cypriots after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

The invasion forced some 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee to the south while some 50,000 Turkish Cypriots made their way north.

It left the Turkish Cypriots in control of the northern and most picturesque third of the island. Widening the divisions, Denktash in 1983 proclaimed the area an independent state, which only Ankara has recognised.

The New York meeting, which

has taken the U.N. months to set up, is the first since last summer when a series of negotiations initiated a year earlier ground to a halt.

The talks aim at setting up a federation to reunite the island in a single state.

Diplomats and politicians on both sides remain pessimistic and say there is not the beginning of a solution in sight.

While the Turkish-Cypriot leader has toughened his stand, insisting on self-determination for his community as well as recognition for his self-declared state, Vassiliou is widely credited with showing a new flexibility.

"You get the impression that Denktash had to be dragged to the negotiating table," a Greek-Cypriot official lamented. Among his own community, Denktash has critics who say he should be more flexible.

The Turks respond that Vassiliou has marketed the Greek Cypriot case well. "He is very successful at public relations... he is seen as a flexible person but no flexibility is apparent if you look at his statements," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sancar said.

Just before the New York meeting, Ankara threw its weight behind Denktash, saying the Greek Cypriots must "make radical changes in their negative attitude towards Turkish Cypriots."

Before leaving for New York Sunday, Vassiliou said the purpose of the meeting was to have sustained talks which he hoped would lead to preparation of a draft outline to solve the Cyprus problem.

In a statement last Thursday the U.N. Security Council called on both leaders to show goodwill and flexibility in the talks.

## Poland, Israel restore ties

WARSAW (R) — Poland and Israel formally restored diplomatic ties Tuesday ending 23 years of official estrangement.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski signed documents restoring relations broken off by Poland during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The two countries are expected to exchange ambassadors shortly, upgrading their current low-level diplomatic missions to embassy status.

Gazeta Wyborcza, the newspaper of the Solidarity trade union and political movement, called the move "the gesture of a sovereign state."

The decision to break ties with

Israel was "the subordination of Polish foreign policy to the interests of an empire then known as the Socialist camp," it added.

Poland and other Soviet-Bloc states followed Moscow's lead in severing ties with Israel. Only Romania maintained relations.

Poland's Solidarity-led government has called the rift "a serious mistake" and offered to restore Polish citizenship to Jews forced to emigrate as a result of a 1968 anti-Semitic purge.

Informal contacts between the two countries were resumed in 1981 and led to the creation of low-level diplomatic missions known as "interest sections" in 1986.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Syrian paper: Hrawi needs military aid

DAMASCUS (R) — A Syrian newspaper said Lebanese President Elias Hrawi needed military and economic aid to gain control over the country's Christian enclave. "Lebanon is in need of military aid for its army... and economic aid to enable it to confront its increasing burdens," the official Syria Times said Tuesday. It added that Syrian-backed Hrawi, whose rule is not recognised by Lebanese Christian leader General Michel Aoun, needed more international diplomatic support for his efforts to oust the general. Aoun, who has vowed to drive Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon, last year unsuccessfully fought a six-month "war of liberation" against the Syrians and their militia allies. The Syria Times said inter-Christian fighting between Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia, which has killed more than 700 people in the enclave since it began four weeks ago, was intended to thwart Hrawi's efforts to win control of the Christian heartland.

### 'TV segment to help clear Demjanjuk'

CLEVELAND (AP) — A new report supports the mistaken identity defence of John Demjanjuk, sentenced to die for atrocities committed by "Ivan the Terrible" at a Nazi death camp, his son-in-law says. Edward W. Nishnic of Cleveland said Monday that Demjanjuk's family and defence attorneys are seeking congressional help in obtaining information in a "60 minutes" CBS television news magazine segment Sunday in which a Polish woman recalled an Ivan the Terrible with a different last name than Demjanjuk's. "If we're successful... absolutely, we would submit it to the (Israeli) supreme court," said Nishnic, who heads a Demjanjuk defence fund. The Israeli court is scheduled to hear Demjanjuk's appeal on May 14. Demjanjuk was accused of operating a gas chamber in Treblinka, Poland, where about 850,000 people were killed in 1942 and 1943. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 69, has said he was in two German prisoner-of-war camps during the time he was accused of Treblinka atrocities.

### Tunisia frees Islamist spokesman

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian authorities released the spokesman of the country's Islamic movement Tuesday after 24 hours in detention for questioning, his colleagues said. Ali Kaaridh of the unrecognized Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement was picked up at home early Monday, taken to the Interior Ministry and set free early Tuesday, they said. In a statement last Friday, Kaaridh said the authorities' handling of unrest by Islamist students "shows that the government has chosen the logic of violence by adopting police methods to treat the legitimate demands of the popular masses". The Interior Ministry regularly questions Nahdha Movement leaders after they issue statements which the government considers inflammatory. A strike called by Islamist students disrupted lectures at some of Tunisia's university faculties Monday for the fifth working day in succession.

### Earth tremor shakes Turkish city

ANKARA (R) — A tremor measuring 4.0 on the open-ended Richter Scale shook the Aegean port city of Izmir but caused no damage, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Tuesday. The epicentre of the tremor which occurred late Monday was in the Aegean Sea 320 kilometres north of Izmir, the agency said.

### New Zealand official leaves Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — New Zealand's foreign trade minister, Michael Moore, left Iran Tuesday after the two countries concluded several agricultural agreements, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Moore as saying the agreements cover cooperation in animal husbandry as well as agricultural technology and training. President Hashemi Rafsanjani met with Moore Monday and hailed New Zealand's position toward Iran during its eight-year war, with Iraq, saying that it kept its policy independent. He appeared to be referring to New Zealand's staying on the sidelines during the intervention by U.S., British and French naval vessels to protect shipping from Iranian attack during the Gulf war.

### U.N. aide unable to visit jailed Briton

GENEVA (R) — A U.N. official who investigated alleged human rights abuses in Iran says he was refused permission to visit a Briton jailed there since 1985. Galindo Pohl, a Salvadoran lawyer, said in a 76-page report issued here that the director of Tehran's Evin Prison turned down his request to visit Roger Cooper on the grounds that the Briton was a self-confessed spy. Pohl, who visited Iran in January, quoted the director as saying Cooper was in solitary confinement after being sentenced the month before. One prison official said Cooper had been given a 10-year sentence but Pohl said the director was unable to confirm this.

### Turkish premier arrives in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Premier Yildirim Akbulut of Turkey arrived in Iran Tuesday on a visit to upgrade uneven relations between the two neighbouring countries and boost economic cooperation. Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Akbulut was received at the capital's Mehrabad Airport by Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi. During his visit, Akbulut will confer with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karubi, the radio said. Akbulut said before leaving Ankara, "We desire good relations with Iran and we are glad to see they have the same thoughts." He will preside over an Iran-Turkey joint Economic Commission meeting in Tehran, the radio said. His most important task will be to discuss the construction of a pipeline to pump Iranian natural gas to Europe via Turkey. According to Iranian news reports, Tehran hopes that Turkey will supply technical expertise and capital for the pipeline, and profit by charging a transit fee for its use.

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopia and rebels in its north-eastern province of Eritrea are locked in battle for a small, steamy Red Sea port that represents a door of life for starving millions.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam has called the struggle for Massawa a "fight to the death" to prevent the collapse of one third of his army and the secession of Eritrea.

But on the outcome of the battle also hangs the fate of an estimated 4 million people in northern Ethiopia in peril of starving to death in the next few months.

"It's grim," said one Western relief worker. "We're looking at a catastrophe in the making."

The United Nations had hoped to ship most of 1.1 million tons of donor food through Massawa to feed drought victims in Eritrea and neighbouring Tigre, Wollo and Gondor provinces.

But with each passing day that hope fades.

The rebels contended as recently as last Thursday that they still controlled the port, but both sides have had little to say about the fighting for more than a week.

Since each side normally crows about victories, diplomats and other observers in Addis Ababa take the absence of battlefield reports to mean the battle for the port continues.

On Feb. 17, in an unprecedented burst of candor, Mengistu said his 2nd Army faced collapse and Eritrea would secede if the rebels gained control of Massawa.

"We have no alternative but to fight to the death," Mengistu told his armed forces in a radio and television broadcast.

"What we don't know is whether the port is going to be usable, no matter whose hands it winds up in," said the Western relief worker. "It presumably has been badly damaged."

Diplomats and aid officials interviewed by telephone from Nairobi would not speak for attribution. They must deal with Mengistu's government and are leery of offending it.



This woman and her family have recently arrived in Sudan from Eritrea fleeing famine and fighting at home. A trickle of refugees has begun to arrive at a relief camp inside the Sudanese border and officials expect a flood by late March.

Ethiopia fields Africa's largest army, an estimated 315,000 men, most of them ill-trained and poorly motivated peasant conscripts. Between 120,000 and 130,000 are assigned to the 2nd Army, which has borne the brunt of a 28-year-old secessionist war by the Eritrean rebels.

The international institute for strategic studies, a London think tank, puts the strength of the Eritrean rebels at about 30,000, but they are known to be well armed, mostly with captured weapons, and highly disciplined.

In the first few days of fighting for Massawa and the road that connects it with the provincial capital of Asmara, the rebels claim to have killed, captured or wounded 12,000 government soldiers and seized 72 Soviet-made tanks, 22 artillery pieces and tons of small arms. They also say they sank 12 Ethiopian Navy craft in or near the port.

As ports go, Massawa isn't much — a cluster of whitewashed stone buildings of mostly Islamic

architecture, narrow streets and a population of 19,400.

But it is one of only two ports on Ethiopia's Red Sea coast, has two deep-water berths and, until the rebels began their offensive, was the main northern gateway to mostly arid and mountainous Eritrea.

The country's only other port is at Assab, also in Eritrea near its border with Djibouti. It, however, has no deep-water berths.

Beyond Massawa, there are few alternative routes for emergency food aid.

Another rebel group, the Tigre People's Liberation Front, cut the only highway from the capital north to Asmara a year ago. Some food could be trucked in from neighbouring Sudan, but few vehicles are available, the roads are terrible and, at least for now, all movements must be at night for fear of Ethiopian air attacks.

This year's harvest failed in large parts of Eritrea and Tigre provinces and, to a lesser extent,

in Wollo and Gondor. What food stocks remain from a year ago are rapidly running out.

Some 25,000 refugees already have fled Tigre into Sudan and United Nations and other aid officials expect their number to grow as fighting halts food deliveries in northern Ethiopia.

Those officials foresee a replay of Ethiopia's great famine of 1984-85, in which as many as 1 million people may have died. Their grim scenario has hundreds of thousands of desperate refugees crowding into makeshift camps where, weakened by hunger and long treks in search of food, more die of disease than from meager rations.

The Ethiopian government said Tuesday it would soon begin delivering emergency food to Eritrea and Tigre.

The government last month agreed to permit delivery of food to rebel-controlled Tigre province by a consortium of churches, but that arrangement lacked guerrilla approval.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 News in French  
15:45 Programme review  
15:55 Children's programme  
16:05 Educational programme  
16:15 News summary in Arabic  
16:25 Arabic recitals  
16:35 Arabic programme  
16:45 News in Arabic  
16:55 Play "Petrus"

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:00 Documentary  
17:10 News in French  
17:20 Varieties  
17:30 News in Hebrew  
17:40 News in Arabic  
17:50 The Naba House  
18:00 Doc. "The Mapsum"  
18:10 News in English  
18:20 The Final Run

**PRAYER TIMES**  
Fajr  
Dhuhr  
Asr  
Maghrib  
Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Trinitaria Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661  
St. Eudokia Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 633266  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be fair in the morning and in the afternoon clouds increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. In Aqaba, winds will

be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Min./max. temp.  
Amman 10/15  
Aqaba 10/22  
Djeddah 3/16  
Jordan Valley 8/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Moudi 743500  
Dr. Fayez Jallouza 724207  
Dr. Numan Bashir 615487  
Dr. Joseph Inaili 705050  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Amana pharmacy 637055  
Nabulsi pharmacy 626072  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 649445  
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

**IBRD:**  
Dr. Ali Al Samman (—)  
Al Shams pharmacy (98236)

**ZARQA:**  
Dr. Khalid Abu Husein (—)  
Khalil pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 52, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 943402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 636800  
Police Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 621101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power

Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816  
Al-Shifa Maternity, J. Amn. 642442  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642352  
Mabrut, J. Amman 636140  
Patriotic, Shamsi 6641714  
Shamsi Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Munster Hospital 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali 6662157  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 7710105  
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 77511126  
Army, Madra 89161175  
Queen Alia Hospital 60224950  
Amal Hospital 0958732  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732  
IBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (09)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:00 Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 Dammam, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:15 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:15 Larana (RJ)  
10:45 Cairo (RJ)  
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)  
17:20 Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
17:40 Vienna, Belgrade (RJ)  
17:55 London, Frankfurt (RJ)  
18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
18:40 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
08:35 Dubai (AZ)  
10:00 Baghdad (IA)

10:05 Cairo (MS)  
10:10 Jeddah (SV)  
10:15 Sami's, Jeddah (TY)  
10:40 Benghazi (LN)  
10:45 Kuwait (KU)  
14:10 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)  
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)  
20:20 Damascus (PK)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
11:30 Riyadh (RJ)  
11:40 London (RJ)  
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)  
13:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)  
13:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
14:10 New Delhi (RJ)  
14:40 Cairo (RJ)  
15:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
06:15 London (BA)  
06:25 Beirut (ME)  
08:35 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)  
09:35 Rome (AZ)  
10:05 Jeddah (SV)  
10:15 Cairo (MS)  
11:40 Baghdad (IA)  
12:15 Jeddah, Sami's (TY)  
14:00 Benghazi (LN)  
15:00 Kuwait (KU)  
15:10 Dhahran (TK)



# Boy heads for W. Germany to undergo cornea surgery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The dream of a Jordanian boy Jaafar Issa, who has been blind since birth, is being fulfilled as he is about to undergo cornea surgery in West Germany. The boy, who is 10 years old, was born with a severe eye defect. His parents, who live in Amman, have been seeking medical help for him since he was a child. They have traveled to various hospitals and clinics, but have not found a suitable treatment. Finally, they have found a specialist in West Germany who has agreed to perform the surgery. The boy is expected to undergo the surgery in the next few weeks. His parents are very hopeful that the surgery will restore his sight and give him a better future.

# Artels denies quote on Jewish influx

AMMAN (R) — The West Bank Artels (Association of Towns and Villages) has denied a quote in a newspaper that it was planning to force Jewish settlers to leave the occupied territories. The quote, which appeared in a newspaper, stated that Artels was planning to force Jewish settlers to leave the occupied territories. Artels has denied this quote, stating that it was a misinterpretation of its position. Artels has always been a peaceful organization and has never advocated violence. It has always been committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. The organization has always been a part of the PLO and has always been working for the liberation of the occupied territories. It has always been a part of the PLO and has always been working for the liberation of the occupied territories.

# Meeting urges media coverage on Jewish influx

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society, held in Amman, urged the media to give more coverage to the influx of Jewish settlers into the occupied territories. The meeting was held at the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society headquarters. The meeting was attended by members of the society and representatives of the media. The meeting was held at the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society headquarters. The meeting was attended by members of the society and representatives of the media. The meeting was held at the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society headquarters. The meeting was attended by members of the society and representatives of the media.

# King wishes writer speedy recovery

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt, Nabil al-Nimr, has expressed his wishes for a speedy recovery for a writer who has been hospitalized in Egypt. The writer, who is a prominent figure in the Jordanian literary scene, has been hospitalized in Egypt for a number of days. The Jordanian Ambassador has expressed his wishes for a speedy recovery for the writer. The Jordanian Ambassador has expressed his wishes for a speedy recovery for the writer. The Jordanian Ambassador has expressed his wishes for a speedy recovery for the writer.

# Indian parliamentary delegation due

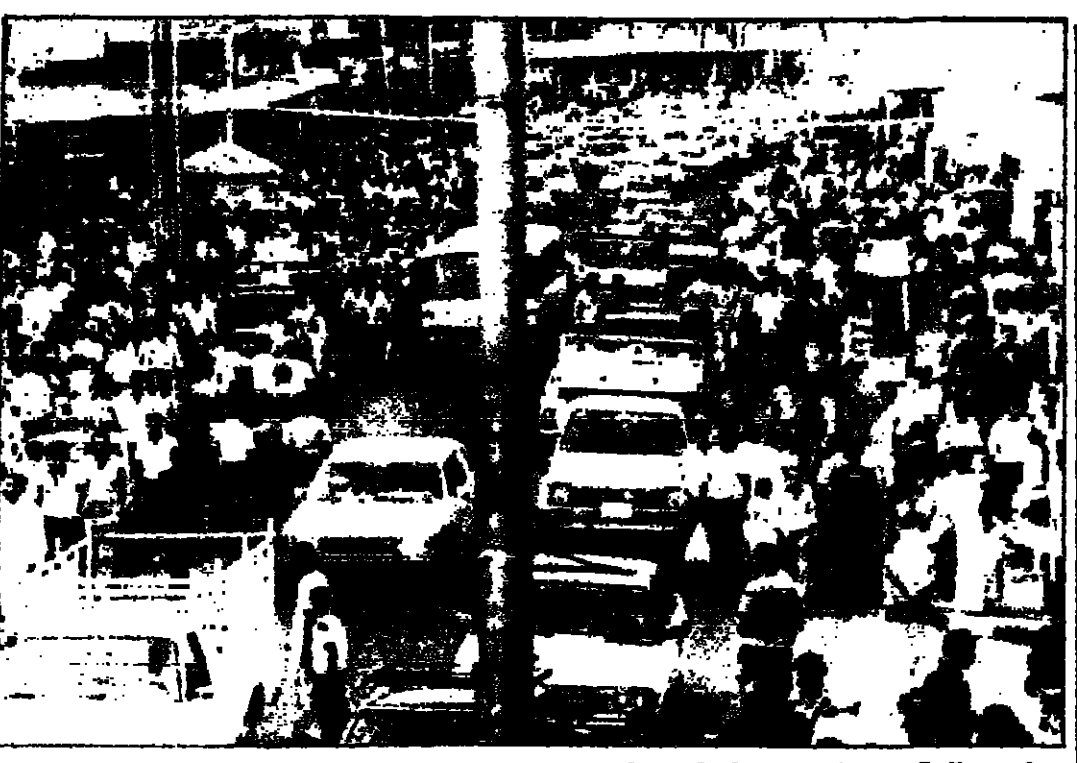
AMMAN (Petra) — An Indian parliamentary delegation headed by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri. P. V. Narasimha Rao, is expected to arrive in Amman on Saturday. The delegation is on a visit to Jordan as part of its tour of the Middle East. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials.

# Indian trade delegation to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of four Indian manufacturers, accompanied by an official from the Indian Ministry of Commerce, is expected to visit Jordan in the near future. The delegation is on a visit to Jordan as part of its tour of the Middle East. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials. The delegation is expected to meet with the Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials.

# WHAT'S GOING ON

- 20-25  
21-25
- EXHIBITIONS**
- An exhibition of paintings by Ali Al-Samir, Nabil al-Nimr and Nawal al-Nimr at the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
  - A photographic exhibition on the Soviet armed forces at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
  - An exhibition of posters entitled "The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." at Yarmouk University.
  - An exhibition of oil and watercolours by Jordanian artist Fouad Badawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental - 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- LECTURES**
- A lecture entitled "Colour-Form-Function" by Dr. Edgar Knapp of the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, at the University of Jordan - 12:00 noon.
  - A lecture by Edgar Knapp entitled "Tendencies of Coloured Architecture in the Present Time and Perspectives for Urbanism in the Year 2000" at the Professional Associations Complex - 6:00 p.m.
  - A lecture entitled "Antoine Caron" by Noel Farrelle at the French Cultural Centre - 6:00 p.m.



The downtown Amman area, with heavy traffic round the clock and surrounded by mountains, has a higher level of air pollution than internationally accepted standards, according to findings of a three-year monitoring project carried out in Jordan (File photo)

# Study reveals heavy air pollution in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-year monitoring of air in and around Amman has revealed heavy pollution of the atmosphere, especially around the city centre which is normally congested by traffic, according to a report presented Tuesday to a three-day international workshop on air pollution. The report, which was prepared by the Jordanian-Palestinian Friendship Society, revealed that the air pollution in Amman is a serious problem. The report stated that the air pollution in Amman is a serious problem. The report stated that the air pollution in Amman is a serious problem. The report stated that the air pollution in Amman is a serious problem.

# Bilad Al Sham conference to review Abbasid period

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan is hosting the fifth international conference on the history of Bilad Al Sham under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with the participation of scholars from Arab and foreign countries. The conference is being held in Amman. The conference is being held in Amman. The conference is being held in Amman. The conference is being held in Amman.

# King holds talks in Bahrain, Qatar

(Continued from page 1)

On the Arab scene.

On Tuesday morning, the King received in his residence the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister. The King and the crown prince had a long and friendly conversation. The King expressed his appreciation for the Kuwaiti people's support for the Arab cause. The King also discussed the current situation in the Arab world and the role of the Arab League. The King and the crown prince agreed to continue their cooperation and to work for the peace and stability in the Arab world.

# Israel extends closure

(Continued from page 1)

In the West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinians reported that a man suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities was killed on Monday after trial by a "people's court". The man was killed by a "people's court" in Nablus. The man was killed by a "people's court" in Nablus. The man was killed by a "people's court" in Nablus.

# High-level panel on information plans strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Guidance Committee (NGC), which is chaired by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, will hold its first meeting in Amman Sunday. The committee is a high-level panel on information. The committee is a high-level panel on information. The committee is a high-level panel on information. The committee is a high-level panel on information.

# Jordanian-American society established

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian-American friendship society has been established in Jordan in an effort to promote understanding between Jordan and the United States. The society was established in Amman. The society was established in Amman. The society was established in Amman. The society was established in Amman.



Majed Shaker Al-Ghannam displays his invention, a carburettor, which runs on gas (Petra photo)

# Jordanian develops gas-run carburettor for automobiles

AMMAN (Petra) — A young Jordanian has developed a device by which car engines can run on natural gas instead of gasoline. The device is a carburettor. The device is a carburettor. The device is a carburettor. The device is a carburettor.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Economic Forum

# Budget deficits and tax policies

By Abdalla Malki

FROM countries as far as Australia to Sweden and on to U.S. governments are under heavy fire from economists. The reason is that treasuries have been running budget deficits which, moreover, are snowballing from year to year, in complete defiance of economic wisdom. According to economists, most major economic ills are traced back to these deficits. Jordan is no exception.

It is maintained that fiscal deficits (a) provoke external borrowing with all the concomitant risks of being caught in debt traps, (b) crowd out the private sector through competing for domestic loanable funds, (c) drain foreign exchange reserves in less developed countries (LDCs) and ultimately (d) lead to raising tax rates.

Primitive tax policies are geared to raising revenues and more and more of them. With fiscal deficits around, the urge for tax revenues burns in and out. The trouble is that the public sector's marginal propensity to save (MPS) in countries with fiscal deficits is commonly lower than that of the private sector. Thus more taxes entail a transfer of funds from capital to consumption spending. This aggravates the problem because the production base shrinks and so does the tax base.

The immediate reaction of ministers of finance hard pressed for funds to cater for the demands of a large public sector is to raise

taxes. Usually the long-term detrimental effects of tax increases on production incentives and thereby on future tax proceeds is overlooked. Measurement of tax efforts before decreasing tax increases is not a common practice in LDCs. And it is these countries that must do that before the others, because their taxable capacity is considerably limited contrary to that of advanced countries.

The recent amendments to Jordan's provisional income tax law had increased tax rates and thus ran into the danger zone. Various measures of tax effort indicated that Jordanian tax-payer had already been overtaxed. Income tax revenues targeted in 1990 do not warrant such increases because a production tax on the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company would have done the job in addition to the remarkable jump in the profits, and thereby taxable income, of Jordanian banks.

However, resort to tax increases, but particularly to income tax, is a plausibly soft option in the short run but the lasting solution is in combating tax evasion and improving collection methods. Drawing on solid information, personal observation and enlightened value judgments, I believe that there is a great room for improving collection methods, apart from combating tax evasion. Before tightening the tax list, I wish we tried that option.

The first step in this regard is to conduct a study on existing methods and practices.

Obviously, the tasks of a tax policy must go beyond fund-raising. If no positive goals are conceived, at least avoidance of adverse effects should be a target. The most important area here is investment. LDCs were stupid enough to grant tax privilege to foreign investments. All of them did that and thereby have neutralised the role of these privileges which became a net unnecessary gain to foreign investors and a net loss to LDCs. Short of unanimous abolishing of these privileges, no single developing country can now afford to do without them.

In effect, the recent increases in tax rates on corporate income in Jordan have eroded tax privileges. This will impact potential foreign (and domestic) investment. Under the present circumstances of economic slowdown and unemployment, tax increases were most untimely. The provisional tax law is being studied by the Lower House of Parliament and will be referred to the Upper House. Judging by the discussions of the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, no significant amendments to the version of the law presented by the Ministry of Finance are to be expected, at least not by the Lower House. It is still too early to expect such moves from our legislature.

## Democracy and the developing world

WHAT IS even more significant than the defeat of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Sunday's elections is the fact that the Nicaraguan people have chosen the democratic way to settle their decade-long conflict. In the final analysis, it makes no difference who scored more in the elections. As a matter of fact, the difference in electoral strength between the winner of Sunday's election, Violeta Chamorro and Ortega is not that remarkable, a result which suggests that the country is almost equally divided on its future course, whether in terms of domestic or external policies. Nevertheless, the real winner in the national elections was democracy and the electoral process which Nicaragua has opted for and successfully applied. The fact that Ortega has faithfully accepted the results of the elections and committed himself to yield to them is even a bigger boost to the process of reconciliation and stability not only in Nicaragua but elsewhere in the Latin American region.

The moral of the recent Nicaraguan story is also pertinent to the rest of the developing world, which has yet to make a daring commitment in favour of democracy. It is unfortunate that the greater majority of the developing countries have yet to pronounce themselves on the new course of history whose principal hallmark is the advent of democracy in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. As such countries keep on singing their worn-out traditional song of economic development outside the context of political reform and asking the developed world to lend a forceful and effective hand to their lagging economies and spreading poverty, they have yet to comprehend the organic link between economic development and political reforms and democratic rule. Clearly, unless and until developing countries recognise the need for political reforms to parallel their drive for economic development, they are doomed to backwardness in every sense of the word.

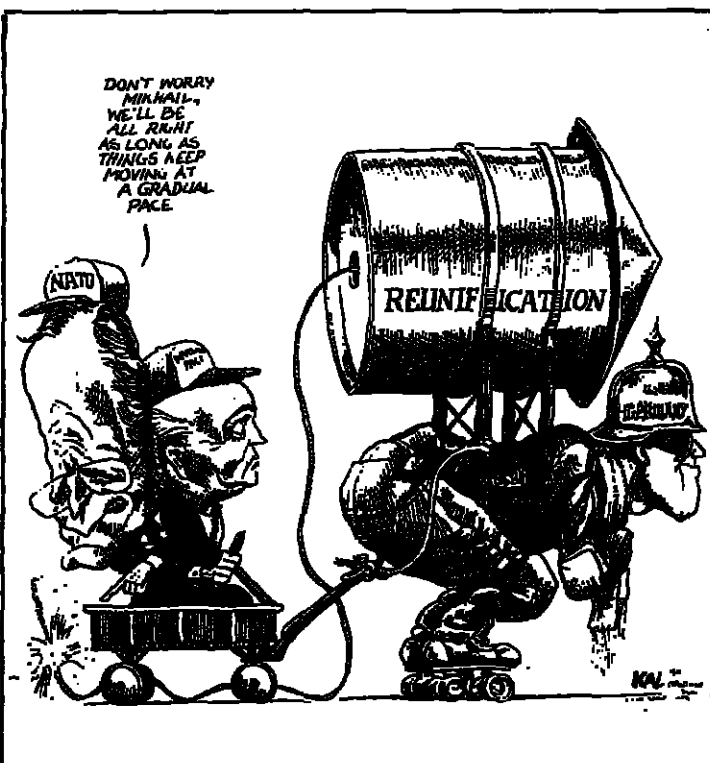
Nicaragua has shown the way to free and fair elections. Many Latin American countries have already taken that road after bitter and agonising flirtations with dictatorship. Even Chile, the subject of many international probes and world concern about its human rights record, has taken a giant leap forward in the direction of greater democratisation and fair elections. It is now fair to say and conclude that Latin American continent has finally chosen the route of democracy as a political and economic way of life. With Eastern Europe also opting for the new spirit of the 1990s, what remains, of course, is the developing countries, whether in Asia or Africa. And as the Arab World is an integral part of the developing world, it is also incumbent on it not only to join the new forces of democracy everywhere but also to take the leadership within the developing world to herald the process of democratisation within that world. Jordan has proudly taken giant steps forward to introduce true and genuine democracy to its people. Other Arab countries have also made sizeable strides in the direction of democracy. What remains to be done is nevertheless much and formidable. Still, the first few steps have been taken and the successful Nicaraguan experiment is an added evidence that democracy works even for the developing countries.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Tuesday discussed King Hussein's current tour of the Gulf region where he is discussing Arab affairs and the new challenges posed to the Arab Nation. The paper said that the tour comes in the wake of a four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) meeting in Amman which has called for a united Arab front in the face of the danger represented in Jewish immigration into Arab Palestine and the threats posed to the Kingdom by the Israeli leaders. The danger of the influx of Jews, said the paper, is not directed against Jordan alone but rather against the whole nation including the Arab Gulf states. King Hussein's discussions in Kuwait and the other Gulf states are bound to dwell on these dangers and these issues, and the King is bound to report on the outcome of the ACC summit which proved that the four ACC countries are united and more determined than ever to safeguard Arab national interests, the paper added. It said that the dangers that confront the Arab Nation are so immense that require an urgent Arab summit meeting grouping all leaders who must chart a formula to defend the Arab homeland in the face of Zionist moves. Jordan which is linked to the Gulf states is in the forefront of the defensive line protecting the Arab Nation including the Arab countries in the Gulf and it is hoped, said the paper, that these countries will maintain their backing and support for Jordan in its endeavours at all levels.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the plight of the teachers at private schools, and says that they are under the mercy of the school administrations whose only concern is to make profits with no regard to the interests of the teachers. Fakhri Kassar says that the teachers have nobody to protect their interests, since their union had ceased to exist since 1984. The writer says that even when the union was alive, its board did little to advance the cause of the teachers in the private schools. The writer cites instances when school administrations offered very little pay to the teachers who had to accept in view of their bad need under the present difficult circumstances. The writer says that a union can ensure that the teachers receive decent pay and enjoy the various services and rights offered to their colleagues at government schools.

Sawt Al Shaab daily noted in editorial that the Arab World is now facing increased dangers at all levels, and only through concerted efforts on the part of all Arab states can they be fended off. In reference to King Hussein's current tour of the Gulf, the paper said that the King seems to be spearheading efforts at the highest level to deal with these dangers and it is determined to maintain the momentum to convene an Arab summit conference to ensure success of any collective action on the part of the Arab Nation.



## Bush, Kohl give assurances to West that may anger East

By Evelyn Leopold  
Reuters

CAMP DAVID — By firmly reassuring the West that a united Germany would be loyal to NATO and respect European frontiers, President George Bush and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl may have angered the Soviet Union and done little to ease the fears of Poland.

At the end of his two days of talks with the president at his Camp David retreat, Kohl went out of his way to ally fears that he might have designs on Polish territory in a future united Germany but he did not change previous positions that have distressed the Poles.

The Polish border question is rapidly becoming shorthand for anxieties in Europe and elsewhere about the military, political and economic might of a unified Germany which nearly half a century ago loosed terror on the world.

Realising this, the chancellor several times told a joint news conference with Bush on Sunday he had no intention of threatening Poland by linking the question of German unification "with a change in existing borders."

But with an eye on his right-wing supporters at home he did not give a timetable for a formal declaration relinquishing all claims to former German territories ceded to Poland at the end of World War II, saying that was a question for a future all-German parliament to decide.

His foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has suggested that both the West and East German parliaments should make some kind of formal public declaration on the issue before a marriage of the two Germanys and after crucial elections in the East next month.

President Bush, denying there was any difference between his position and the chancellor's, said clearly that the United States "formally recognises the current Polish-German border."

In his opening statement, the president also stated unequivocally that the two agreed that a unified Germany should remain a full member of NATO "including participation in its military structure" and that U.S. forces should remain on German soil as a "continued guarantor of stability."

He said the former territory of the (East) German Democratic republic would have a "special" status that would include the security interests of the Soviet Union, a reference to proposals to limit NATO forces to Western regions.

Kohl indicated Soviet troops might remain temporarily in the East.

German sources said privately that opinion in the West would feel reassured about a future and powerful Germany anchored firmly in NATO.

But a senior German official said he expected Bush's strong statement to draw a negative reaction from the Soviet Union, which had just reiterated its con-

cern that a unified Germany in NATO would disturb the military balance in Europe.

In response to a question, Bush said he could visualise U.S. troops in Germany when the Soviet Union removed its forces because they were "not in Europe against the will of any single country in which they are deployed and the Soviet troops have been for years inside the country of territories that haven't wanted them."

He said he was not worried about differences on German unity among the United States, Britain, France and especially the Soviet Union, who have some legal rights in Germany.

"We will reason together and it will all work out," he said, quoting former President Lyndon Johnson.

The West German chancellor came away from the talks with possibly the strongest expression yet from the president on German unification.

"We welcome unification," Bush said. "If events are moving faster than expected it just means that our common goal for all these years for German unity will be realised even sooner than had been hoped."

Kohl, however, bristled at suggestions from questioners that Bonn was acting like a runaway freight train, saying that the issue was one of self-determination and that East Germans, 100,000 of whom had moved to the West since January, not he, had accelerated the pace.

"What has happened is for many an unexpected new situation, even for those who always talked about it but did not believe the day would really come," he said. "Now the day is here."

"No one should tell us that we are not a reliable partner, no one should have any fears," he said. "We understand our history and the burden that history carries."

To drive the point home he said he expected to run for reelection in December as the chancellor of West Germany, implying there would be no formal reunification in 1990.

## Thousands still homeless after Panama invasion

By David Harris  
Reuters

PANAMA CITY — A photograph of a fire-gutted building with the blackened ruins of General Manuel Noriega's headquarters in the background is all Rigoberto Nunez has left to remind him of his home.

Nunez, his parents and three brothers ran for their lives on the night of the U.S. invasion that overthrew Noriega and devastated the poverty-stricken El Chorrillo area where his headquarters stood.

Nearly two months later, they and some 2,000 other former residents of El Chorrillo are living in a huge hangar on the edge of a U.S. air force base. Crowded into small wooden cubicles, they are surviving on two meals a day provided by the U.S. government.

Another 850 displaced persons are living nearby in more than 40 tents.

"We are hoping things are going to change," said Nunez, who is 22 years old and unemployed.

The refugee camp is intended as a temporary solution by U.S. and Panamanian authorities while permanent housing is found or built.

In the meantime, many of the social and economic problems that plagued El Chorrillo, one of the most crime-ridden areas of Panama City, can now be found at the camp.

Unemployment there is close to 70 per cent, according to officials, and Nunez and other residents complain of drug dealing and violence.

Carlos Gordon, a 36-year-old father of five, had a litany of complaints ranging from drug use to bad food to arrogance on the part of Panamanian guards,

members of the new police force. "The most serious problem is drugs, then the food," said Gordon, who, like most other refugees interviewed, said he lost everything he owned in the invasion.

He said refugees were smuggling marijuana and cocaine into the camp and fights between refugees broke out several times a day.

Teresita Yaniz de Arias, the wife of first Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon and a coordinator of the camp, said in an interview that such problems should come as no surprise.

"This was a high-density neighbourhood with a very high rate of crime," she said. "These people didn't change overnight. They brought their own problems — those they already had plus those they acquired from losing their houses."

Paul Bell, an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is funding the camp, said about 100 people had been thrown out for violating the rules.

He said the reasons ranged from drug use to fighting cooking fires in the hangar's 500-odd wooden cubicles. But he played down the severity of the problems.

"The great thing that has happened is that the percentage of crime, the percentage of interpersonal problems, is much less than it was in El Chorrillo," he said. "I expected it to be much worse than it is."

Despite the trauma of the American invasion and the displacement that followed, both the refugees and the Panamanian and U.S. officials who operate the camp have tried to establish some semblance of normality.

Some enterprising refugees have set up small businesses, such

as laundering and ironing clothes, cutting hair, and opening small food stands just outside the entrance.

A school has been established for some 125 children between the ages of two and five.

For those who don't want to eat meals brought in by a local restaurant, a small shed has been set up with stoves.

Officials said there are several schemes in various stages of development for the refugees to move into permanent housing.

Earlier this month, the U.S. and Panamanian governments signed an accord under which the United States will provide \$2.5 million to restore an apartment block in El Chorrillo damaged in the invasion. About 450 families are expected to be able to move in by May.

Another project would provide U.S. funds for refugees to buy their own homes in areas around Panama City. A U.S. official said he expected it to begin allocating money in a matter of weeks.

A third, longer term, solution will be to build new houses in the area of El Chorrillo that has been completely razed since the invasion.

Because many of the refugees want to return there, they will be in for the longest wait to leave the camp, and officials said many may be living here until the end of the year.

In the meantime, Yaniz de Arias said the camp will stand as a test for the new government as it seeks to meet expectations that some Panamanians say cannot be met.

"This government will be judged by two things," she said. "The way it provides guarantees of personal freedoms and human rights, and by how capable it is in solving the problem of people like the people of El Chorrillo."

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



Bill A. Catechism  
Amman



## OUT OF FOCUS

### Bankrupt

By Adnan Anji Sand

THE OTHER DAY, I ran into a friend of mine who used to be a double agent in the government's service. How's business? I asked. "Don't ask," he said, shaking his head. "I haven't made a cent since I left the service in the last year and a half years." But then, he had made a fortune over the years to last him for decades, hadn't he?

He looked at me with furrowed brows. "You should know better than that," he said. "My expenses are very high, you know." "All my money is only going out; nothing is coming in," he said. "There is no business in town; no contracts, no tenders. Everybody is postponing or shelving things, you know," he added with a disconcerting shadow of pleasant memories seen to be replaced with gloom.

"The worst part of it is that some of my old friends have a hearty interest when they see me these days. They seem to have forgotten the kind of money they got from me," he said, pulling out a paper from his pocket and waving it in front of me. "Do you know what this is?"

I said I do not. "I want to sell my Mercedes 450 SEL, and this is an ad I want to put in the newspaper," he explained.

Are things that bad? I was full of sympathy.

"Of course they are; otherwise why do you think I want to sell the car? I have to pay the health club, American Express and Disney Club, rent my two maid's work permits and need my BMW for annual maintenance, not to talk about the point job for sports car needs or the new diving board for my swimming pool."

What about his status wages? I asked. "Oh, I gave it to my cousin who just came back from the U.S. For pay, he could not afford to buy one," he boasted, apparently at his generosity.

But it did not last for long. "I haven't had a foreign trip in two months," he went back to his pessimistic mood.

What a pity, I said. He should really be feeling low, I thought to myself.

"You know one thing? There is a lot of money in this country, but the problem is no one wants to show it. I bet I can buy \$10 million in one day if I want to," he said.

But he did have some dollar and sterling accounts outside, didn't he? I was curious. "Yes, but I changed them all into Swiss francs. But don't expect me to bring them back here," he was firm.

"What is on your mind about all these things around here?"

"But, I will very soon get back on my feet," he continued with a surge of confidence.

How was that, particularly that there was no future for his line of business? I asked.

"Who says I am going back to my business?" he said with a secretive smile. "I am going to try politics this time."

## Dima, Rawan: demanding to be seen... and heard

By Maha Bulo

TO COIN a phrase, education is too important to leave to the educationalists alone. For Dima Al Daman, it is too important to leave to grownups alone. It was time, Dima felt, that adults heard what children had to say. So she wrote an open letter to the regional conference organized in Amman (Nov. 13-16, 1989) to prepare for the world conference on Education for All, to be held in Thailand in March, in which she set out the problems faced by children in school. Little did she know that it would be adopted as an official document of the conference and read out before the participants by the minister of education himself. Dima, by the way, is just over nine years old.

She and her sister Rawan, bright-eyed and looking their best, met me half-way up the stairs and conducted me to their fourth-floor apartment. I had come to interview Dima about her new famous letter.

A loaded letter

"My mother was taking part in the conference, and she encouraged me to write the letter. It was a way to tell them about the problems we face in school. One of them is that we go to two schools, one in the daytime, and another in the evening at home, to do our homework, which leaves us no time to play, and that is not good. Another point is that teaching should be both theoretical and practical, not just theoretical. We see pictures in a book, but they don't take us to see the things we study. For example, we learned about the construction of equipment to use wind energy, and we

saw pictures in the book, but we did not see how this is done. The irrigation project in Jordan exists, but we were not taken to visit the project.

"I also told them that we study for the exams, and after we succeed in the exams we forget what we studied, because the teachers don't explain the lessons very well."

How could pupils succeed in exams if they don't understand the lessons?

"Because we learn them by heart. The teachers don't explain enough. They should put themselves in the place of pupils, see their side of things as children. Another complication is that the teachers teach us one way, and our parents at home tutor us in a different way, so we get confused."

Teacher-parent contact

One way to solve this, she suggested, is for parents and teachers to get together and discuss this issue. Although some schools in Jordan encourage contact between parents and teachers, most of them shy away from it. "We are judged solely on the grades we get," Dima lamented, "not only in school but often at home. All parents care about are good grades, so that they can boast that their children are clever. For them, grades show the level of the pupil, and yet what should matter is whether the pupil understands the lesson or not, the degree of participation in the class, and the ability to answer questions."

The conversation with Dima continued beyond the points she had covered in her letter. The matter of supervision of teachers



Dima and Rawan Al Daman: "There are as many of us as there are of you." (Photo by Maha Bulo).

asking the conference's permission, introduced Rawan, then aged 8. After thanking the conference for its interest in Arab children, she expressed regret that children had not been invited to take part.

Setting an example

"Please tell fathers and mothers," she said, "that they should be good themselves if they want to be an example for their children, that they should treat all their children the same way and not beat them, that they should not say that boys are better than girls... Tell them that grown-ups should love each other so that children can love them and learn to love each other too." She then added: "Please do not keep talking about us while you stay away from us; come to us in our kindergartens and schools, talk to us and respect us, for although our minds are less developed than yours we are capable of understanding." Rawan feels that adults should listen to what children have to say, because, as she puts it, "there are as many of us as there are of you."

Rawan's specific interests are the theatre and television, so the conversation naturally turned to that topic. What did the girls think of the programmes on television? It was Dima, though, who answered: "There are too many foreign programmes that are subtitled, and they deal with situations and realities with which we

## 'Greenhouse effect can be eased profitably'

By Paul Rieburn  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The widespread adoption of existing energy-saving technology could cut U.S. energy use by 75 per cent, solving the global-warming problem profitably, a researcher says.

Improvements in energy-efficient devices have come along so quickly that they "now create astonishing potential savings," said Amory Lovins, director of research at the Rocky Mountain Institute in Snowmass, Colorado.

He said his studies show the proper use of energy efficiency can outpace the current growth in the world's population, which stands at 5.3 billion.

A world of 8 billion people with a standard of living equal to that of West Germany and an economy five times the current size could survive on one-third the energy now consumed worldwide, Lovins said.

Lovins said his extensive calculations show proven energy-saving technology can save 80 per cent of the oil the United States burns each year and can cut U.S. electricity use by 75 per cent.

The burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil has left elevated levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and enhanced the atmosphere's ability to trap the sun's heat, a process called the greenhouse effect.

Scientists generally agree that this process will noticeably raise average global temperatures, perhaps in the next few decades, producing environmental disruption and unpredictable weather changes.

Most experts have assumed the shift away from fossil fuels to prevent global warming will be costly and difficult, but Lovins argued otherwise.

"Far from being costly, abating global warming should, on the whole, be immensely profitable," he wrote in a study he described at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Improving energy productivity can save the world upwards of a trillion dollars per year — as much as the global military budget," he wrote.

The utility industry and others say Lovins has exaggerated the savings from improved energy efficiency.

One-fourth of the electricity savings would come from improvements in lighting, one-fourth from improvements in motors, and another quarter from energy-efficient appliances and other equipment, Lovins said.

In the case of lighting, the replacement of existing equipment with new reflectors, lenses, lamps, controls and maintenance methods would create as much light as is provided now, but with just 8 per cent of today's electrical use, Lovins said.

Lovins long has championed greater energy efficiency, and published in 1977 a widely quoted book called "Soft Energy Paths."

## Success of private, local TV shows direction of European broadcasting

By Raf Casert  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The small commercial television station VTM marks its first anniversary this month, basking in financial and popular success and epitomising the way the TV business is going through Western Europe.

A year after the state-run BRT network lost its broadcast monopoly in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, VTM has become the biggest broadcast in Flanders.

Industry insiders say the story of VTM and BRT goes beyond a regional David-beats-Goliath tale and reflects wider issues in European broadcasting.

At a time when big-name European satellite networks have stumbled or are struggling along VTM — a local product with purely domestic aspirations — expects to turn a profit this spring, two years ahead of schedule.

VTM's success lies in a daily viewing menu heavy on fun and local content that has won over a public starved for Flemish-language, sometimes shallow entertainment after years of the often ponderous BRT monopoly.

"The runaway success of VTM augurs the ever-increasing success of commercial networks at the expense of quality," said Jean-Claude Burgelman, chairman of the Brussels-based Centre for the Study of New Media and Information Technology.

Throughout Europe public broadcast monopolies have melted away in recent years, making room for commercial broadcasters that do well financially.

In West Germany, RTL Plus and Sat 1, set up in 1984 and 1985 respectively, have made deep inroads into audiences once the domain of state public networks ARD and ZDF, said Burgelman.

In Italy, Silvio Berlusconi has become the Nr. 1 media tycoon. His three commercial networks successfully compete with the RAI state networks, reaching almost 40 per cent of the audience.

France's TFI was privatised in 1987 and has turned debt into profit.

For VTM, financial success and popular appeal go hand in hand.

To lure viewers with local content, VTM hired three former winners of the miss Belgium beauty pageant.

One now tops VTM's ratings with a quiz show.

Other local shows nestled in the top 10, include a musical show that taps the Flemish pool of crooners with varying talents.

In another flagship VTM show, participants put bets on such outlandish feats as whether a 12-year-old can name any James Bond movie by hearing only a minuscule part of the dialogue.

YES, he could.

"In every country the prefer-

chance."

Rupert Murdoch pioneered European satellite television in 1982 with his sky project, but had to refocus his operation on Britain and Ireland after resistance in Europe to his English programmes.

Now, his sky television is still losing an estimated \$3 million a week.

Super channel started in 1983 but lost \$85 million in its first five years for much the same reasons and has been sold in an attempt to reverse its fortunes.

Fiona Waters, spokeswoman for sky television, said that the evolution in European broadcasting in the eighties forced their change of strategy.

"In 1982, there was not a lot of entertainment television across Europe. Commercial TV was limited and national stations did not go on the air until late in the afternoon," offering sky channel a big gap in the market.

Since deregulation throughout Western Europe, general-audience market is filled to overflow

and national competition in local language was forcing sky channel out.

"Sky was an English-language entertainment station, it was never going to do as well as the home-based entertainment station... In the early days people would watch more in English because there was not an alternative."

Waters said narrow-casting such stations as MTV-Europe and Eurosport with local translation was the wave of the 1990s.

Many question whether culture stands a better chance in the new climate.

With viewer ratings the key to advertising revenue, commercial stations like VTM do not set their sights high on culture and sophisticated entertainment.

"It is no scandal to want to please the audience," said Neels. "VTM is not a medium for the 'happy few.' We don't want to patronise the public."

Murdoch maintains the quality standard of the public networks have always been flawed. His

position is that these are nothing more "than a reflection of the values of the narrow elite which controls (public networks) and which has always thought its tastes are synonymous with quality."

Faced with a ratings war, public networks are going through an identity crisis.

Many are scaling back high-brow programme and producing the same brand of popular programmes the commercial stations do.

"For the public network, it is either extinction, facing up to the ratings war and trying to produce more pulp than the competition, or disregarding ratings and choose a distinctive profile where information, education and local drama productions prevail," said Burgelman.

The latter, which Burgelman and others advocate, has yet to see fruition.

"A straight head-to-head confrontation is not going to be in the interest of anybody," said Crookes.

"In 1982, there was not a lot of entertainment television across Europe. Commercial TV was limited and national stations did not go on the air until late in the afternoon," offering Sky channel a big gap in the market.

## U.S. to lift sanctions on Nicaragua

(Continued from page 1)

The military's reaction to the UNO win is still uncertain. Some officials have suggested that the Sandinista-controlled army and police would refuse to cooperate with a UNO government.

Contra rebels who have waged an eight-year war against the government said in Honduras that they would remain armed until Chamorro took power and the Sandinista army was dissolved.

The tension led to clashes in

the streets of the capital Monday night. Riot police came out when Sandinista backers clashed with celebrating UNO supporters.

Police later fired tear-gas canisters at UNO supporters when they advanced towards barricades in some streets and some were calling for a repeat of the 1979 insurrection.

Many grassroots Sandinista supporters seemed unable to accept the result. The pro-government Radio Sandino received a constant stream of telephone

calls voicing support for Ortega and accusing the opposition of fraud in the polls.

"We are ready to accept any decision of the leadership to do away with the Somocista guard," one said. The government links the UNO with the national guard of former dictator Anastasio Somoza, toppled in the 1979 revolution.

A commentator on Voice of Nicaragua radio said Sandinista supporters in some areas were being threatened.

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## U.S. blocks new funding for IMF

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and other leading countries have failed to agree on providing billions of dollars to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for lending to the Third World and Eastern Europe.

The fund said Monday it has put off a decision on new funding until the end of June in yet another setback for the agency.

The deadline had been set for March 31 after repeated postponements. That date would have represented a two-year delay over the normal timetable for reviewing fund resources. Decisions normally are taken every five years.

Poland has recently won a \$730 million loan from the fund and approval is reported to be near on a \$213 million loan for Hungary.

Though small in comparison with the borrowing needs of Eastern Europe, these loans are important in opening the way to lending by others. Governments and commercial banks take confidence from the strict economic measures that the fund requires countries to put in place before it lends money.

Resources of the fund amount to the equivalent of \$117 billion, but much of that is in currencies of Third World countries and is not in demand by borrowers.

Managing Director Michel Camdessus has asked that the total be doubled. Although he had widespread support among the 152 member governments, the United States, Britain and Saudi Arabia demurred.

The United States has been reported ready for a 50 per cent increase. That would require it to put up nearly \$12 billion as the largest source of the fund's money. The outlays would not count in the U.S. budget because the money is considered still the property of the United States, which receives interest on dollars that the fund lends out.

Japan raised a problem when it asked to be the number two contributor instead of number five. Officials said this issue had been virtually settled, with West Germany as number three, though the relative positions of Britain and France are not yet clear.

The officials, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the U.S. Treasury is concerned about overdue payments to the fund from 11 Third World countries.

# Survey shows U.S. in 'danger zone'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is in "a danger zone" but will avoid a recession in the next three years, according to a survey of the nation's top business economists released Monday that found little hope of ending inflation.

The survey by the National Association of Business Economists (NABE) found 60.6 per cent of the professional forecasters believing the economy will skirt a recession through 1992, nearly the same as the 62.1 per cent making the same prediction in the last survey released in December.

NABE President James Smith said the biggest news in the survey is its confirmation of the "sea change" of optimism among the participants in December. A NABE survey last May found 63 per cent of the economists expecting a recession this year.

"There was some trepidation that was a fluke," Smith said at a news conference called to release the new survey. "Fortunately, it wasn't."

Smith, a finance professor at the University of North Carolina, cautioned that "we have not repealed the business cycle and we will have a recession some day."

But he added, "our members are confident... that we will shatter all records for the U.S. economy with the current expansion. When we get to October 1991, we will tie the glory days of the 1960s and break the record of the 1961-1969 expansion."

"Most of the credit for this relatively confident outlook over the next three years is placed squarely on the shoulders of (Federal Reserve Fed Chairman) Alan Greenspan and his colleagues on the Federal Open Market Committee" who formulate monetary policy, Smith said.

Still, nearly 46.2 per cent of the 65 participants said the risk of an economic downturn increased in the fourth quarter of 1989 while only 21.5 per cent said they believe the recession risk has decreased.

And, of the 39.4 per cent who thought a recession would occur in the next three years, 18.1 per cent believe it started in the last quarter or will begin sometime this year.

"Thus, even though the best guess is no recession in either the next 12 months or even as far ahead as three years, the economy is in a danger zone," the NABE survey concluded.

"The probability of recession is not trivial and almost 80 per cent of respondents think it has risen or remained the same over the last quarter," it said.

At the same time, inflation is projected to be 4.2 per cent in both 1990 and 1991, the survey found. Inflation as measured by the consumer price index was 4.6 per cent in 1989, up from 4.4 per cent in both 1988 and 1987.

If the inflation forecast were correct, it would be a disappointment for the Federal Reserve — the U.S. central bank — which has focused monetary policy for more than a year on driving down prices by keeping a tight rein on credit.

As a result, the gross national product (GNP) — the total output of goods and services — fell to 0.5 per cent in the last quarter, down from three per cent in the July-September period.

The Bush administration and many economists have urged the Fed to ease credit and thus permit lower interest rates in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

However, Greenspan indicated to Congress last week the central bank would keep interest rates high. And in their survey, the NABE economists expect little movement in interest rates over 1990-1991.

Several Fed governors have testified in support of legislation intended to eliminate inflation over the next five years and to maintain price stability thereafter.

The survey also contains potential disappointments for the administration, including a projected GNP growth rate of 1.7 per cent in 1990 and 2.5 per cent in 1991.

The administration is counting on lower interest rates and its projected 2.6 per cent growth this year to meet the deficit target of the country's balanced-budget

law of no more than \$100 billion. It forecasts 3.3 per cent growth in 1991 to meet the \$64 billion target.

But using their higher interest rate and slower growth predictions, the economists said the deficit likely will total \$140 billion in fiscal 1990 and \$120 billion in fiscal 1991.

And the economists project only small gains on the foreign trade deficit. The NABE survey projects a \$105 billion imbalance in 1990 and \$99 billion in 1991. The trade deficit in 1989 totalled \$108.6 billion.

In another area, the Congressional Budget office says the federal government could save \$5.45 billion over five years by ending subsidies loans that help sell U.S. products abroad.

Outlays of \$4.3 billion are foreseen from 1991 to 1995 under the "food for peace" programme, which provides loans to Third World countries to buy surplus U.S. farm products.

Loans can be extended to 40 years at interest rates averaging two per cent to three per cent a year, a much longer term and much lower rate than any bank would provide.

The detailed report by the bipartisan agency, which presents pros and cons but does not make recommendations to Congress, recently became available.

Typically, according to the report on possible changes in revenue and spending, the subsidies

average 70 per cent of the market price. Governments that buy the food sell it on their home markets and use the proceeds for development projects or other official spending.

"The marketing of some food commodities, most notably wheat and wheat flour, still relies significantly on food-aid programmes," it said.

Some recipient countries, according to the report, complain that the loans are not really aid because most must eventually be repaid.

The report said the money from sales is being used increasingly for development projects and that the loans remain one of the few international policy in U.S. government hands.

To sell American industrial products, subsidised loans are made by the government's Export-Import Bank, largely in the Third World. Savings from abolishing it are estimated at \$1.15 billion over five years.

The loans are defended on the ground they create jobs, counter similar subsidies from U.S. competitors such as France and Japan, and help U.S. high-technology companies keep up high rates of output.

However, the report said, much of the aid is given to exports don't face foreign competition.

"Direct subsidies to U.S. manufacturing would be more cost-effective," the report said.

## Third World envoys warn of trade crisis

GENEVA (AP) — A group of Third World countries warned Monday that the Uruguay Round trade liberalisation talks will head for a crisis unless the industrialised partners in the negotiations address the poorer nations' concerns.

A joint statement noted with "deep concern the current lack of balance in the negotiations." It said imbalances were evident in traditional trade issues of concern to the poorer nations, such as market access for tropical products, textiles and agriculture.

The statement said developing countries were also concerned about proposals "to enlarge the scope of anti-dumping and countervailing duty rules for protectionist purposes."

"Furthermore, imbalances are also manifest in proposals and initiatives advanced in various negotiating groups which aim at depriving developing countries of their rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)," it said.

The statement said the developing countries are convinced that after three years of negotiations on technical trade matters "the time for political decisions has arrived and that these must become manifest without further delay."

The talks, conducted in 15 different negotiating bodies, are to be completed this year with a final meeting planned for December by ministers of the 96 GATT member countries.

## Recession persists in L. America

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Rising inflation and stagnant economic conditions plagued Latin America in 1989, the eighth consecutive year of recession in the region, the head of a U.N. commission has said.

Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said that "1989 was again a very bad year for most Latin American countries."

"In short, for the region as a whole the crisis of the 1980s is as bad as ever," Rosenthal said. "As the decade draws to its close, the average per capita product is more than eight per cent below that of 1980, and the countries have had to bear huge social costs."

A report by the commission showed that hyperinflation was re-

curred in four Latin American countries in 1989. The annual inflation rate was 3,700 per cent in Argentina, 3,000 per cent in Peru and nearly 1,500 per cent in Brazil. Nicaragua, where inflation had soared to an annual rate of 34,000 per cent by the end of 1988, recorded a rate of 3,500 per cent in 1989, the report said.

Rosenthal said Mexico lowered its inflation rate dramatically during the year. "But still, on the average, rates of inflation have been going higher and higher in the second half of the 80s," he added.

Rosenthal said exports from Latin American countries grew considerably in 1989, allowing the region to post a trade surplus of almost \$30 billion. But that favourable development was offset by the heavy debt burden facing countries in the region, he said.

"In 1989 the bill debt-servicing was \$38 billion. And in 1989 Latin America as a whole again was a net exporter of financial resources, this time to the tune of \$25 billion," Rosenthal said.

He said that 1989 "was the eighth consecutive year that the region had this abnormal situation of developing countries being net exporters of financial resources."

The commission supports measures to reduce debt payments for countries in the region facing dire economic conditions.

"We believe that legislation can be brought about in the developed countries to change rules and producers which would make debt reduction more attractive to the banks, and it would make them more ready and willing to go the debt reduction route," Rosenthal said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Tuesday, February 27, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	
Pound Sterling	1380.8	1377.6	
Deutschmark	396.2	398.6	
Swiss franc	449.7	452.4	
French franc		117.1	117.8
Japanese yen (for 100)		449.9	452.6
Dutch guilder		371.8	373.9
Swedish crown		109.6	110.3
Italian lira (for 100)		33.6	33.9
Belgian franc (for 10)		190.9	192.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.6870/80	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1953/58	Canadian dollar	
	1.6900/07	Deutschmarks	
	1.9035/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.4902/12	Swiss francs	
	35.20/25	Belgian francs	
	5.7200/50	French francs	
	1249/1251	Italian lire	
	148.72/82	Japanese yen	
	6.1190/1240	Swedish crowns	
	6.5145/95	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4980/5010	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	408.80/409.20	U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market bounced back from Monday's slide, led by a strong performance on Wall Street and a rally in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries Index rose 24.1 points at 1,570.4.

TOKYO — Shares galloped to a higher close after gyrating throughout the day in a 1,200-plus range. Trading was modest but a step above its recent subdued levels. The Nikkei index surged 576.08 points, or 1.73 per cent, to close at 33,897.95 after tumbling 1,569.10 on Monday.

HONG KONG — Shares closed sharply higher as traders drew positive signs from a better performance in Tokyo and resilience on Wall Street. The Hang Seng Index rose 59.99 points, or 2.09 per cent, to close at 2,952.62.

SINGAPORE — The market staged a strong rebound as prices closed sharply higher across the board after Monday's sharp losses. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 28.53 points, or 1.89 per cent, to close at 1,535.09.

FRANKFURT — West German shares ended 1.6 per cent higher as confidence returned to the market in quiet trading. The Dax Index closed at 1,804.32, up 28.28 points.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed broadly higher in quiet trading. The Swiss Performance Index rose 12.4 points, or 1.14 per cent, to close at 1,103.6.

LONDON — Shares were slightly higher in thin late-afternoon dealings, as the market responded tentatively to a rally on Wall Street. At 1654 GMT the FTSE Index was up 5.3 points at 2,254.6.

NEW YORK — Light futures-related buying helped Wall Street stocks gain further despite a record drop in U.S. primary durable goods orders. At 1650 GMT the Dow Industrial average was up about 23 points at 2,625.

## Unilever profits rise 24 per cent

LONDON (R) — Anglo-Dutch food, cosmetics and soap giant Unilever reported a 24 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits Tuesday, attributing it to a healthy growth in sales.

Unilever PLC-N.V., one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, announced combined fourth quarter profits of £431 million (\$727 million) compared with £377 million (\$637 million) in the same period of 1988.

This took 1989 pre-tax profits to £1.8 billion (\$3.03 billion), slightly above forecasts by market analysts, against £1.45 billion (\$2.5 billion) in 1988.

Group co-chairman, Sir Michael Angus, said the rise in earnings was helped by the fall in the value of sterling and a 10 per cent rise in sales — four per cent from existing business and the rest from recent acquisitions and disposals.

Unilever launched a major expansion... some last year with purchases of the cosmetics and toiletries businesses of Fabergé Inc., including Elizabeth Arden.

Food products provided the bulk of turnover of £5.39 billion (\$9.08 billion) compared with turnover of £4.49 billion (\$7.57 billion) in 1988.

Unilever said it had spent £1.9 billion (\$3.2 billion) in 1989 on 55 acquisitions, including Elizabeth Arden and Calvin Klein. It said these purchases helped make it one of the world's leading companies in personal products.

The company, which has a major margarine and edible fats business, noted a continued decline in total fat consumption as well as a growing demand in Europe for high-quality foods with nutritional benefits. It said this offered more opportunities for products with a polyunsaturated or low fat content.

"Our companies have responded positively and effectively to this changing consumer trend," it said in a statement.

In Rotterdam, co-chairman Floris Maljens expressed concern at a news conference over the effect of high interest rates on Unilever's prospects for 1990.

Maljens did not rule out further large-scale acquisitions in 1990

## Bell Resources reports Australia's largest loss

PERTH (R) — Bell Resources, part of Australian entrepreneur Alan Bond's crumbling business empire, Tuesday reported a half-yearly net loss of \$62.5 million dollars (\$647 million), the largest loss in the country's history.

The huge deficit for the six months to December was due mainly to the problems of Bell Resources' debt-ridden parent Bond Corporation, which posted the previous record loss by a publicly listed company, \$14.1 million dollars (\$610 million) for the year to last June 30.

Geoffrey Hill, chairman of Bell Resources, attributed his company's loss to its decision to write

down 977 million dollars (\$733 million) against the value of investments and debts relating mainly to Bond Group companies.

Bond Corporation owns 58 per cent of Bell Resources, which was to have bought Bond's Australian brewing assets and has paid a 1.2 billion dollars (\$900 million) deposit for them.

The brewing assets are now in the hands of receivers, though Bond will appeal their appointment. Hill said that although talks on the brewing deal were continuing, agreement was unlikely while the breweries were in receivership.

Early this month, Bell Re-

sources launched court action to have Bond Corporation wound up for non-payment of debts.

Bell Resources recorded a profit of 76.8 million dollars (\$58 million) in the six months to December 1988.

Hill said that despite the losses Bell Resources had sufficient current assets, of about 674 million dollars (\$506 million) on Dec. 31, to meet ongoing liabilities.

He became chairman in a board reshuffle in December last year that ousted four Bond directors after a dispute with disgruntled shareholder Adelaide Steamship. This deprived Bond of control over Bell Resources.

## New estimate puts Soviet unemployed at 8 million

MOSCOW (R) — Experts with the Soviet State Planning Committee estimate the number of unemployed at about eight million — about four times higher than official figures, an independent Soviet news agency said Tuesday.

The Postfactum News Agency, newly set up to provide economic and political news for businesses, said the new estimate had been made by experts at the economic research institute of Gosplan.

"According to expert estimates... unemployment amounts to no less than eight million people now. The official estimate of the USSR Goskomatru (State

Labour Committee), about two million, seems to be far too low," the agency said. The population of the Soviet Union is at least 280 million.

Postfactum said the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, would consider a fourth draft of a bill on unemployment next month. It calls for setting up regional employment centres, an employment fund and unemployment benefits.

The European part of the Soviet Union has until recently suffered from a labour shortage. Unemployment was largely restricted to Central Asia, where a high birth rate, low industrialisation and seasonal agricultural

work have taken a heavy toll on job opportunities.

But Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's strictures against overstaffing, low productivity and the forced closure of non-productive enterprises have resulted in job shortages in other regions, despite official pledges to the contrary.

Official estimates of the number of unemployed do not take into account the large number of "vagrants" or "parasites" — people who choose not to work and who rely on friends and family for support, or those living illegally in Moscow and other large cities where they have no right to jobs.

## French winemakers fear trouble

PARIS (R) — The contamination problems which hit French mineral water bottles source Perrier earlier this month offers no consolation to French winemakers, who say they see potential problems for their own products in the United States.

"I look at Perrier's situation and I am very worried," Claude Taittinger, head of French champagne house Taittinger and president of the French Wine and Spirits Export Federation, told the federation's annual news conference in Paris Tuesday.

Earlier this month Perrier announced it was withdrawing its world stock of 160 million bottles of sparkling water because of a contamination scare. Two other French water bottles have also recalled their stocks.

Asked at the news conference if foreign drinkers might turn to wine and spirits instead of Perrier, Taittinger told a news conference that any food product could become the victim of "a witch hunt."

"If one wants to find dangerous products, one is going to find them everywhere, perhaps in infinitesimal amounts," he said. "I

probably have arsenic in my tie," Taittinger said he was worried that French wine and spirit sales could be hurt by a U.S. consumer movement which wants product labels warning pregnant women and diabetics to refrain from drinking alcohol.

"People in the United States attach a lot of importance to this type of recommendation, this kind of propaganda," he said. "U.S. citizens drink 15 per cent of French wine and spirit exports last year, down slightly from 1988, according to figures released by the export federation."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Trying to impress your spouse must upon others won't get you very far today with three Moon squares activating resistance at every turn. Be dynamic but understanding and patient.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be prepared for a delightful invitation which will soon come your way through a friend. Be romantic and you will have a fine emotional time.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Invite a partner into your home who can aid you with a long-time problem. Go with your attachment with a couple to whom you are obliged.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your most direct speaking associate will now give you good advice of an idealistic nature. Pile your attachment with compliments today.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Doing small favours for attractive friends will pay off handsomely in return benefits. A fine time to entertaining persons of different views at your home.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) A new and more cheerful and enthusiastic attitude towards your attachment can bring desirable results romantically for you both.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Invite women and unusual friends and entertain them in your

home. A wonderful day to thoroughly enjoy your attachment at planned recreations.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Fix up any property you have and improve its value and appearance. Be out in the world of outside activity all you can with your attachment.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) All sorts of wonderful things can happen at home if you are receptive to them. Don't bring up any old arguments to your attachment.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your business ideas and plans of action are on a sensible and well thought out basis. Your attachment will appreciate more common sense on romance.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your friends and acquaintances now need to be handled with tact and diplomacy. Get off alone with your attachment to show your continuing devotion.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Much activity with other friends, socially could bring much happiness. Ask into your home those good friends to whom you are indebted.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get some fresh ideas for your duties from one from a distance. Have a good time with your attachment in the outside world.

## THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- The Fuzz
- "When I was —"
- Staccato
- Flick
- Special
- Angelic
- headgear
- Trinidadian instruments
- Elliptical
- Member of the
- base; abbr.
- Most accurate
- Broadway
- award
- Clow
- Grow
- A Joyce
- Community
- Baby
- linguist
- Stumble
- Antarctic sea
- Curtails
- Queue
- Money
- Money
- wegged
- "I — It My Way"
- Brooklyn
- Order hero
- Messieurs
- et —
- Branch
- Got a "C"
- Tried to steal
- Burden
- Legs
- House
- addition
- Song
- Article
- Over the hill
- Occasionally
- Dad
- Even
- Medal
- Ogled
- Detroit
- Innovator
- Something prohibited
- DOWN
- Dove home
- Baking place
- Dessert
- Belray
- Outlay
- Prairie
- Branch
- Ruins
- Inconsiderate
- Good review
- Too bad!
- Change skin
- Food additive
- "—", "—"
- Lead on
- me!
- Informant
- Dinner course
- Kind
- Get lost!
- Call up
- Does nothing
- Katoff
- Indians
- Remove suede
- MPH
- Cynical
- Olive stuffing
- Mohammedan
- feast
- Branch of
- Word in a
- main; abbr.
- Sandwich type
- Alumni
- Stare at
- Final
- Lubricate
- Tea for —
- Lasso
- Astounded
- 50 Word in a
- comparision
- 51 Sandwich type
- 52 Finale
- 55 Lubricate
- 56 Tea for —

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Fuzz, 2. When I was —, 3. Staccato, 4. Flick, 5. Special, 6. Angelic, 7. headgear, 8. Trinidadian instruments, 9. Elliptical, 10. Member of the, 11. base; abbr., 12. Most accurate, 13. Broadway, 14. award, 15. Clow, 16. Grow, 17. A Joyce, 18. Community, 19. Baby, 20. linguist, 21. Stumble, 22. Antarctic sea, 23. Curtails, 24. Queue, 25. Money, 26. Money, 27. wegged, 28. "I — It



## Volvo Indoor:

## Chang returns to tournament

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — French Open champion Michael Chang has returned to tournament tennis for the first time since injuring his hip in December, and said, "I'm just about 100 per cent."

Chang, who was forced to miss the opening round of Davis Cup because of the injury, teamed with Jimmy Arias Monday in a losing first-round doubles match at the Volvo Indoor. He is the tournament's number two seed in singles.

"I feel good and I'm playing good tennis," Chang said. "Tonight's match took away a few nerves."

Chang and Arias fell to Marcelo Filippini and Diego Perez of Uruguay 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

In a first-round singles match, India's Vijay Amritraj showed he still has the competitive spark, but an unwilling ankle forced the veteran to retire in the first set. Amritraj, 36, led Brian Page 4-1 in the opening set when he injured his left ankle after hitting a winning backhand from the

baseline. Page, playing his first match of the year, advanced to a second-round meeting with Marcelo Filippini, the number seven seed, at the Racquet Club of Memphis tournament.

"I thought I was playing OK," Amritraj said. "We were having a real long game and I went for one shot and sent it back. I went for another shot and sent it back. Then I tried to generate a little extra pace on the third one."

"That's when I turned my ankle and I heard two or three knuckle-breaking noises. I think I ripped a ligament. Hopefully it's just a tear and it's not torn completely," Amritraj said.

Monday's most powerful performance was turned in by Lawson Duncan, who demolished Keith Evans 6-4, 6-2.

The weeklong tournament began with a mild upset as Finland's Veli-Pekka Korpela, ranked 87th in the world, stopped number 75 Derrick Rostagno 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6).

## Egypt seeks to escape soccer doldrums

CAIRO (AP) — Manager Mahmoud Al Gohary says he hopes to soon have a better sense of the Egyptian soccer team he will put on the field in the World Cup championships this summer.

In its third warmup game for the sport's premier tournament, Egypt plays Austria Wednesday, its first real World Cup-calibre competition. It's an important match for the squad, Al Gohary said.

"I'm striving to stabilise my team," he told the Associated Press, to create "the necessary harmony and cohesion among them. We need this, because we're up against strong opposition in our World Cup group."

Grouped with Egypt in Italy are England, Holland and Ireland. Bobby Robson, England's manager, watched Egypt's first two warmups, scoreless draws against Denmark and South Korea, and said afterward that Egypt is better than it used to be.

He knows because of a 4-0 England victory in an international friendly at Cairo in 1986.

Typically, Al Gohary, 51, Egypt's national coach since September 1988, likes to open with a first-driving offensive attack, build a quick lead, then settle into an almost conservative defensive game to chore off the opponent.

Such a game plan requires top conditioning, which can be problematical with older players like Egyptian stalwarts Ahmad Shabir, the goalkeeper, and defender Rabie Yassin, both 29; midfielder Magdi Abdul Gham, 30; and forward Gamal Abdul Hamid, the team captain who at 32 is the squad's oldest player.

Both Robson and Al Gohary saw in the Korea match that the Egyptians need to improve their conditions. While South Korea, also a World Cup side, never slowed down, Egypt "showed signs of weariness," Al Gohary said.

Thus, Al Gohary has been emphasising conditioning, and after 10 days the Austrian game "will be a serious and strong test of our team," Al Gohary said.

Austria is "a strong selection that plays modern soccer and whose players have great skill.... This match will be a touchstone for our team."

History is not on Egypt's side. Egyptian teams twice played sides from Austria and twice lost, 3-1 in Berlin in 1936 and 1-0 in Cairo in 1960. Additionally, Austria is a frequent qualifier for the World Cup championships with seven appearances; Egypt's sole trip was in the first championships in 1934, and it lost to Hungary in the first round, 4-2.

Wednesday's game is Austria's first warmup for the June 8-July 8 World Cup finals, and Al Gohary said he's seen the Austrians only on videotape. He's impressed.

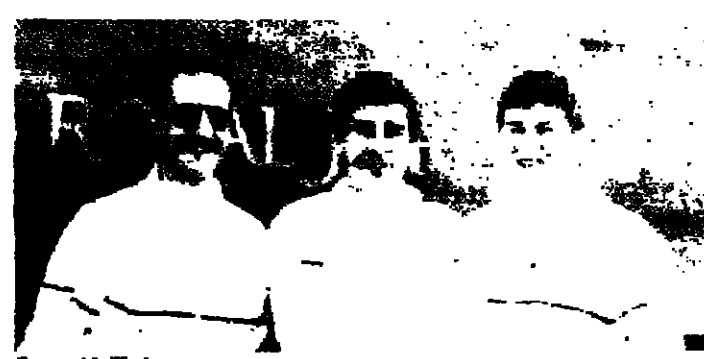
Nevertheless, Al Gohary looks forward to Wednesday's match, saying Egypt's 0-0 draws in warmup matches against so-so competition cannot be taken at face value. The first was against a Danish selection comprising only players from that country's leagues and not from its stable of excellent exported talent.

## Malaysia air race ends today

AMMAN (Petra) — The final leg of the Malaysia International Air Race 1990 started Tuesday as the participating aircraft took off from Amman heading for Paris. Saqr Al Urdun (Falcon of Jordan), the Royal Jordanian aircraft, still maintains the lead in the race with 2 hours 45 minutes.

The air race started on Feb. 5, 1989, from Paris and will end in the French capital Wednesday Feb. 28. The race started with 13 competing planes, but on the first day one plane withdrew because of landing gear problems. Dubai Victory, representing Dubai, withdrew later in Singapore because of technical problems with the vacuum pump, leaving Jordan the only Middle Eastern country to compete in the race.

His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Sunday met crews taking part in the race and members



Saqr Al Urdun crew

of the international commissions which organised the race. King Hussein congratulated the Jordanian crew on their achievements in the race. On Monday an awards ceremony was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein. The French crew received the first place award for winning the Dubai-Amman stage. The participating crews who arrived Saturday in Amman visited a number of historical

and touristic sites in Jordan. During the flight from Dubai to Amman, the Falcon of Jordan lost one hour because of an emergency landing they had to make in Kuwait for refuelling.

The Jordanian crew includes captain Eric Ledger, co-pilot Rakan Nasser and photographer Mazen Fanous. The winner of the race will receive a cash prize of 100,000 French francs.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Sports stars to appear on stamps

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Four former Norwegian sports stars, including figure skating queen and Hollywood actress Sonja Henie, will appear on Norwegian stamps later this year, the post directorate announced Tuesday. The four have all been Olympic and world champions. The others are speed skater Ivar Ballangrud, cross-country skier Thorleif Haug and speed skater Hjalmar "Hjallis" Andersen. Andersen, who dominated the speed skating events at the 1952 Winter Olympic in Oslo, is the only one in the group who is alive.

## U.S. changes training site

ROME (AP) — The U.S. soccer team has changed its training camp for the 1990 World Cup, moving to a quiet seaside town near Pisa from a busy Florence suburb, a spokeswoman for the Italian organising committee said Tuesday. The Americans, playing in their first World Cup in 40 years, have chosen Tirrenia, on the Tyrrhenian coast 16 kilometres from Pisa, site of the famed leaning tower. They will use an Italian Olympic Committee training camp in Tirrenia from June 1 through the first round of the competition, said Tiziana Maestrelli of the 1990 World Cup organising committee.

## Australia swim coach reappointed

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Don Talbot, the Australian national coach who was criticised by his swimmers despite a team-record 21 gold medals at the Auckland Commonwealth Games, had his contract extended Tuesday, officials said. A spokesman for Australia Swimming Inc., the governing body for swimming in the country, said Talbot would be coach of the national team up to and including the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The 56-year-old Talbot led the Australian team to a complete dominance over the Canadians and English at Auckland, the two teams that were expected to compete strongly with Australia for the 32 gold medals in the pool at the games. Following the Australian performances at Auckland, several swimmers said they were upset with Talbot's tough discipline and training programme.

## Joyner wants to start a family

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Florence Griffith-Joyner, the now-retired triple gold medalist at the Seoul Olympics, said Tuesday that she wants to start a family. Griffith-Joyner is in Australia with her husband, triple jumper and hurdler Al Joyner, to present sports awards at banquets in Melbourne and Sydney. The 28-year-old Griffith-Joyner arrived for the conference dressed in a fawn-coloured outfit, carrying a bouquet of flowers and with each fingernail painted a different colour. Griffith-Joyner said she missed training and competing and would never forget her Olympic experiences.

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH  
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## WHERE'S THE BEEF?

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## Mandela arrives in Zambia, urges foreign aid for ANC

**LUSAKA (Agencies)** — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela hugged leaders of his exiled African National Congress (ANC) in Lusaka Tuesday at the start of his first foreign trip since his release from 27 years in South African jails.

Setting the tone for his first direct talks with the people who have run the guerrilla movement since he was jailed in 1962, Mandela, 71, said recent reforms in South Africa had posed a challenge to the ANC.

And he appealed for international aid, including cash, to help the ANC respond to that challenge.

"As you know, the African National Congress has been unbanned," Mandela told Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, leaders of the so-called frontline states facing South Africa and ANC veterans who met him at Lusaka airport.

"But that development, as welcome as it is, has brought us a host of problems which we cannot address without resources," he said.

"We appeal to the international community to provide us with the capital and other resources to undertake this reconstruction."

South Africa's white-led government released Mandela from jail on Feb. 11.

Several thousand ANC supporters met Mandela at Lusaka airport when his chartered Zambia Airways airliner landed from Johannesburg. Groups waved banners including one that said "your release is equal to a people's victory."

Thousands more lined his route from the airport into the city, where he was to meet African leaders and senior Commonwealth representatives including Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark.

Mandela was accompanied from Johannesburg by ANC veteran Walter Sisulu and other former life prisoners as well as his wife Winnie, travelling abroad for the first time.

Mandela, wearing a dark blue suit and maroon tie, hugged Kaunda, an arch opponent of South African apartheid and host

to the ANC throughout the last decade of its exile, at the end of a red carpet rolled to the foot of the aircraft stairs.

He hugged leaders of other African states, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and Botswana, but his most emotional greetings were reserved for the acting president of the ANC, Alfred Nzo, and former ANC veteran military commander Joe Slovo.

ANC President Oliver Tambo is recovering in Sweden from a brain seizure. Officials said the movement's foreign affairs chief, Thabo Mbeki, was unable to meet Mandela because he was held up by an air crew strike on his way back from Europe.

"I am happy to be on Zambian soil because this is the country which has made it possible for us to continue our struggle," Mandela said in a tribute to Kaunda.

Kaunda, 64, last saw Mandela before the ANC leader was jailed in 1962.

Mandela commended Kaunda as a peacemaker who tried to persuade successive South African governments to open dialogue with the ANC, which he said was committed to peace.

But "if we are compelled to resort to arms... the responsibility for this lies firmly on the shoulders of the government," he said.

To chants of "One Africa, one revolution," Kaunda described Mandela as a freedom fighter and "a truly great son of Africa."

Tens of thousands of people lined the 25-kilometre route from Lusaka airport to Kaunda's official residence, where Mandela will stay. Full-page advertisements in government-controlled newspapers had urged a strong turnout.

The throng, including school children and church choirs, waited in sweltering tropical sunshine for several hours to catch a glimpse of the ANC leader.

They waved green branches, a traditional African symbol of rejoicing, in the biggest public welcoming since Pope John Paul II's visit last May.

Kaunda declared Tuesday a national holiday — Nelson Mandela Day — and factories offices and shops were closed in Lusaka, a city of 1 million people that has seen numerous bomb attacks against ANC buildings.



Juan Ponce Enrile

## Enrile arrested

**MANILA (AP)** — Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile surrendered to police Tuesday after he and six others were indicted on rebellion charges in connection with December's failed bid to oust President Corason Aquino.

Enrile left the senate chamber with agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, who served him an arrest warrant charging him with "rebellion with murder" and harbouring fugitives.

The former defence minister has denied any role in the bloody Dec. 19 coup attempt and accused the government of fabricating charges to silence the opposition.

"I am submitting myself to the arresting officer in order not to inconvenience any more the senate," he told reporters. "Hereon, I am already in custody."

Others indicted Tuesday included former Lt.-Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Cagayan Provincial Gov. Rodolfo Aguinado, retired Brig.-Gen. Felix Brawner, retired Lt.-Col. Billy Bibit, businessman Rebeco Panilio and his wife.

They were the first civilians indicted in the coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest attempt to unseat Aquino since he took office in the 1986 uprising that toppled the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Enrile led the February 1986 military mutiny that triggered the "people power" uprising. Aquino rode to power. But Aquino fired Enrile as defence minister in November 1986 after a failed coup by his followers.

Charges against Enrile stem from statements by witnesses who claimed they saw Honasan and about 100 rebels at the senator's home on the first day of the coup attempt. Enrile claims he has not seen Honasan since 1987.

"What we are witnessing today is the effective operation of our criminal justice system under a constitutional democracy," presidential press secretary Tomas Gomez told reporters in announcing the indictments.

"Crimes have been committed, criminals have been identified, and therefore, cases have to be filed."

Hours after Gomez's announcement, Enrile appeared at the senate and in a speech to his colleagues said: "The regime of President Corason Aquino has marshalled all its forces in fabricating charges against me in order to silence the voice of the opposition in this chamber."

"As I leave you today, I pledge to you that no jail or prison will stop me from trying my best to voice the grievances of the Filipino people," he added.

Enrile, who as Marcos' defence minister ordered the arrest of thousands during martial law from 1972 until 1981, then surrendered to NBI Director Alfredo Lim and two other agents.

Earlier Tuesday, Enrile told radio station DXZL that if he were charged, he would appeal to the supreme court to overturn the indictment.

## Kaifu reelected premier

**TOKYO (AP)** — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu was reelected to Japan's highest government post Tuesday, and immediately began efforts to form a cabinet that will reflect his new-found political muscle.

Kaifu bowed as his formal reelection was proclaimed after a vote in the Lower House of Parliament and hailed by a round of rousing applause and scattered cheers.

Of 508 valid votes cast in the 512-seat chamber, Kaifu won 286, his closest rival, Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi, received 146 votes. Kaifu needed 255 votes for a majority.

Immediately after the Lower House vote, Kaifu rushed off without comment to meet party leaders to work out a cabinet lineup.

In the 252-seat Upper House, which is controlled by the opposition, Kaifu failed to win a clear majority in the first round of voting, but won in a run-off with 111 of the 246 votes cast. Ms. Doi garnered 91 votes, and 44 ballots were left blank.

The decision of the Lower House is final, as the chamber by

law can name a prime minister with or without the assent of the Upper House, but the lack of consensus is rare. When Kaifu first assumed office six months ago, he was the first prime minister in 41 years who was not nominated by both houses.

Both houses were convened Tuesday for a special 120-day session, the first since Kaifu steered his Liberal Democratic Party through difficult elections for the Lower House on Feb. 18.

The cabinet resigned en masse earlier Tuesday, paving the way for Kaifu to conduct a shakeup after completing last-minute negotiations with other party leaders.

Kaifu is expected to reappoint Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to continue their work on revising an unpopular new sales tax and easing trade friction with the United States.

Party officials also say chief cabinet secretary Mayumi Moriyma will be replaced by Misao Sakamoto. Moriyma, who had never held a cabinet position before, was the first woman to hold the key post.

## World hails Chamorro victory, praises Ortega

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Foreign opinion has generally welcomed the upset victory by Nicaraguan opposition leader Violeta Chamorro and praised Sandinista President Daniel Ortega for pledging to respect the voters' verdict.

"Perhaps no world leader was happier than U.S. President George Bush, who said: 'Any friend of democracy can take heart in the fact that Violeta Chamorro won the election.'"

"The election process, by all accounts free and fair, is a credit to the people of Nicaragua who chose to determine their nation's future at the ballot box," he said.

Bush seemed to go out of his way to extend an olive branch to Ortega, whom he once likened to a skunk. The Reagan and Bush administrations have railed against Sandinista Nicaragua, imposed economic sanctions, and backed the contra rebels.

"The people of Nicaragua and the cause of democracy have won an impressive and important victory today," ex-President Ronald Reagan said in a statement. The biggest scandal in his administration, the Iran-contra affair, arose in part because of secret diversion of funds to the contra rebels.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar praised the vote as a major step towards Central American peace.

Ortega's government "deserves warm commendations for having convened these elections ahead of schedule, having submitted to the test of the people's will, and accepting the verdict of the ballot box," he said in a statement.

Prime Minister South American leaders congratulated Chamorro and praised the defeated Sandinistas for upholding democracy.

"The elections represent a milestone in the history of Nicaragua and of all Central America. They have enormously strengthened democracy in the continent and we foresee a promising future..." Argentine President Carlos Menem said in a message to Chamorro.

El Salvador, a close U.S. ally which accuses the sandinistas of aiding leftist Salvadoran rebels, also expressed satisfaction at Chamorro's victory and said it might help peace prospects in El Salvador.

But government spokesman Mauricio Sandoval also spoke admiringly of Ortega's "political

maturity" in defeat.

In Miami, home to around 150,000 Nicaraguan exiles, anti-Sandinista leaders expressed hopes about a homecoming.

"The Nicaraguan people have triumphed by ousting the Sandinistas with their vote," said Aristides Sanchez, a leader of the Nicaraguan resistance based in Miami.

In Panama, second vice-president Guillermo Ford said: "God bless Violeta." Ford was an opposition candidate in polls last May annulled by General Manuel Noriega, later deposed in the December U.S. invasion.

In Honduras, U.S.-backed contras said they would not give up their arms until the Sandinista government surrendered "total power" — including military power — to Chamorro.

"We are going to maintain our positions while we wait for them to accept the surrender of total power to Violeta Chamorro," said Commander Oscar Sova-barro.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said: "This is good news for Nicaragua, for Latin America, for everybody."

France's ruling Socialists reacted coolly to Chamorro, noting that the Sandinistas had been forced to concentrate on defence at the expense of its social welfare. But Spain's Socialist government offered to help Chamorro rebuild.

Sweden's Social Democratic government attributed the outcome to a desire for change by "a people accustomed to life's hardships" and said it would not affect foreign aid, budgeted at \$37.6 million for the 1990/91 fiscal year.

In Norway, generally sympathetic to the Sandinistas, Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said: "It is now decisive that the result of the vote is also followed and respected... something I believe will happen."

Adolfo Calero, one of the original leaders of the Nicaraguan resistance, said the vote meant an end to eight years of fighting between the Sandinista army and U.S.-supported contra rebels. The fighting killed about 30,000 people.

"Now that the door to democracy has been opened, now we do not need troops on either side," Calero told reporters at his Miami office.

## Warring Cambodian factions begin closed session in U.N. peace role

**JAKARTA (AP)** — The latest Cambodian peace conference went into closed session Tuesday to study how the United Nations might administer the battered country and supervise free elections.

Leaders of the warring Cambodian factions conferred directly for the first time on formal proposals for a major U.N. role in arranging their future.

Proposed by Australia and endorsed by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — China, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — it appears to offer the best current hope to end the 11-year-old conflict.

As though warning against undue optimism, however, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stressed that the low-key talks were "an informal, preparatory meeting" offering "an improved chance of making further progress" if and when suspended Paris peace talks are resumed.

Those talks broke down over power-sharing proposals in a four-party interim government that would include the Khmer Rouge. The radical Communist group seized power in Cambodia in 1975 and was ousted after Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and installed a new government.

Khmer Rouge rule was a bloodbath. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodia's 8 million people died in executions, famine and civil unrest.

Despite past rancor, the Khmer Rouge, the anti-Com-

munist Khmer People's National Liberation Front and followers of former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk formed a coalition in 1982 to wage guerrilla war against Vietnamese occupation forces. The coalition holds Cambodia's seat in the U.N. General Assembly.

Australia suggested an interim role in which the United Nations would be responsible for monitoring a ceasefire and assuring internal security by keeping the three guerrilla armies apart from rival Cambodian forces. It would have to block outside military assistance to the four factions and verify that all foreign troops — specifically the Vietnamese — had been withdrawn.

The Jakarta talks opened Monday amid reports of fighting in northwest Cambodia, with Vietnamese troops in action again to support Premier Hun Sen's army. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach denied there were any soldiers from his country in Cambodia.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said a mid-level estimate for the Cambodian peace proposal was a cost of about \$987 million for a year, or \$1.3 billion for 18 months.

The warring parties generally accept a role for the United Nations in arranging elections. There is less agreement about its interim position.

"The key to a political solution of the Cambodian problem does not rest with the establishment of an interim administration," said Hun Sen. Dissolution of the present structure would lead to chaos, he told the conference.

Meanwhile, a rebel spokesman said Tuesday Cambodian guerrillas held back an advance by government troops despite reports that disputes among guerrilla factions had led China to cut arms supplies to non-Communist rebels.

Fighters of the Khmer Rouge routed Monday an advance by 300 government troops pushing north from Svay Chek, which the soldiers had seized Friday, to Thmar Pouk.

"They (government troops) are scared of the Khmer Rouge," said a spokesman for the National Sihanoukist Army (ANS).

Despite the Khmer Rouge counter-attack, the government troops consolidated their hold on parts of northwestern Cambodia retaken from the KPNLF in a blitzkrieg last week.

Cambodian government radio said 276 guerrillas were killed in the Feb. 14-23 offensive on Svay Chek, 180 wounded and 12 captured. A large cache of munitions and 472 weapons were seized.

The KPNLF turned down a Khmer Rouge offer of help in the defence of Svay Chek, the ANS spokesman said.

The KPNLF says it is resisting Chinese pressure to cooperate militarily with the Khmer Rouge because of its bloody reputation. It has accused Peking of cutting off weapons supplies as punishment.

## Seoul opposition calls for new elections

**SEOUL (AP)** — Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung Tuesday called for a general election to let voters judge the fairness of a recent merger of President Roh Tae-Woo's governing Democratic Justice Party (DJP) with two opposition groups.

Speaking before the National Assembly as head of the Party for Peace and Democracy, Kim proposed that elections for national legislators be held in conjunction with local autonomy elections, tentatively scheduled for June.

Kim called the three-party merger a "political coup d'etat" and "a breach of contract" with voters who had voted for legislators whose political parties no longer exist.

The next regular general election is not scheduled until 1992. Park Hee-Tae, spokesman for the governing party, said Kim's call for elections would create confusion.

"We are convinced that the merger is supported by the people and is the way to save the country," he said.

Roh's party formally disbanded earlier this month to form a new giant governing party with the no. 2 opposition Reunification Democratic Party, led by Kim Young-Sam, and the no. 3 opposition New Democratic Republican Party, headed by Kim Jong-Pil.

Roh and the two Kims said the merger was necessary to achieve political, social and economic stability by ending a three-party system.

In the last elections, in 1988, Roh's party lost its majority in parliament and Kim Dae-Jung's party emerged as the no. 1 opposition force.

The three-party merger left Kim Dae-Jung's party as the sole minority party, while the new ruling Democratic Liberal Party controls more than two-thirds of the 299-seat National Assembly.

The conference, scheduled for April 17-18, will be "devoted to science and economics issues" involved in the controversy, according to a White House statement.

Bush, whose stance on global warming has been derided by environmentalists as pro-industry, had promised such a session after his December meeting in Malta with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

About 20 nations were invited to the conference, including the world's major industrial powers such as the Soviet Union, and several nations with large hard masses, such as Brazil, aides said. China was not invited.

During his 1988 presidential campaign, Bush cited "increasing evidence" that the Earth's atmosphere was heating up because of the so-called "greenhouse effect" and promised to convene a global conference to find ways of dealing with the problem.

In a speech that provoked widespread criticism from his audience, Bush told an international conference on climate change earlier this month that "our policies must be consistent with economic growth."

## Bush invites 20 nations to global warming conference

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President George Bush has invited representatives of the world's largest industrial nations to a mid-April conference in Washington on global warming and other environmental problems.

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## 37 killed as another gale hits Europe

**LONDON (AP)** — The second most severe storm of the winter claimed 37 lives in seven European countries, flooded and blacked-out parts of Britain and continued to disrupt road and rail links Tuesday, authorities said.

Fourteen deaths were reported in Britain, seven in France, seven in West Germany, five in Belgium, two in East Germany and one each in Ireland and the Netherlands as winds hit 160 kilometres per hour Monday.

In Ireland, residents had more than wild weather to worry. Four circus tigers escaped when their cage was blown over near Drogheda during Monday's storm. The animals were later rounded up.

Shipping in the English Channel and the Irish Sea continued to be badly disrupted Tuesday by strong winds.

Monday's storm was the second big storm to hit Europe since Jan. 25, when 95 people were killed by a gale with winds up to 170 kilometres per hour. A storm that lashed southern England on Feb. 7 with winds up to 130 kilometres per hour left two dead.

In Britain, Monday's victims included a driver whose bus hit a fallen tree, a man killed by a collapsing chimney and a woman hit by a roof slate.

In the North Wales neighbouring seaside towns of Towyn and Kinnel Bay, police and rescue workers evacuated 2,000 people from their homes after waves opened up a hole 180 metres wide in the sea wall. Water up to 1.5 metres deep poured throughout the streets, flooding homes and cutting power and telephone links.

Rescuers used boats, helicopters, fire engines, buses and police vehicles to carry people to emergency centres set up on higher ground by social service agencies.

The dead in France included a 3-year-old girl killed by a falling branch in Avesnes-sur-Helespes in the north of the country. In Paris, a man was killed by a falling wall and a 17-year-old was killed by a slamming door.

In the Belgian port of Antwerp, a boat sank after a 15-ton crane dropped onto the vessel, injuring several people.

All ships remained in port in Belgium's North Sea harbours Monday and train traffic to the Netherlands was interrupted.

At Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, the Netherlands' flag carrier KLM said it suspended 15 international flights Monday. Seven people were hurt at a pre-ent carnival in the southern town of Beek when a big tent blew down.

Storm damage to overhead power lines halted Netherlands' rail traffic on three local lines and the international link with Belgium, the government-owned railroad company said. Two bridges linking the southern and northern parts of the country were closed because of storm danger, police said.

The British government's meteorological office responsible for weather forecasting said there was nothing abnormal about the storms.

"There have been 10 comparable periods of destructive gales recorded over the past 38 years," it said in a statement.

It said Monday's storm originated off the eastern seaboard of the United States when cold air from the Arctic collided with warmer moist air from the south.

## COLUMN

### Editor challenged to a duel

**MONTEVIDEO (R)** — An Uruguayan police inspector and a newspaper editor have been given permission by the government to fight a duel to the death. A 1928 law allows citizens of the South American country to fight duels, provided they get official sanction. Pistols are the only weapons approved to settle affairs of honour. The government has drawn a barrage of criticism from politicians, labour leaders and others for allowing a duel between a civilian and a serving policeman. The last legal duel took place in 1971, and the government has since then turned down all requests for permission to duel.

The challenge was issued by Assistant Police Chief Saul Claveria to Federico Fassano, editor of the daily La Republica, who had run a story linking Claveria to a smuggling case. Fassano has said he will not retract the story and he planned to announce whether he will accept the challenge. "Claveria's seconds demanded immediate satisfaction, asking me to retract what we published. I'm not retracting. I stood by the story and I told them I had proof," said Fassano, an editor who habitually embraces leftist causes. One of the last recorded duels was fought by Uruguayan's president, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, whose term expires Thursday.

Rocky statue loses art museum battle

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — It took three guys using a diamond-edged power saw and a jackhammer to knock Rocky Balboa off his feet. The crew worked for more than two hours to separate the 2.6-metre bronze likeness of the city's fictitious boxer from the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which has repeatedly insisted it doesn't want the statue. A lawyer for 'Rocky' creator Sylvester Stallone pledged to fight to get the statue, a movie prop, a permanent home atop the museum steps. In the original 'Rocky', which won Best Picture and Best Director Academy Awards in 1976, Stallone's Balboa character ran up the museum's stone steps in triumph while training for a fight. The statue had been moved to the museum from the spectrum Sports arena for the filming of Stallone's latest 'Rocky' movie 'Rocky V' Filming of 'Rocky V' ended here Friday, and the museum insisted the movie producers move Stallone's likeness. After separating the 363-kilogram statue from the base, workers used a crane to lift it onto a truck. Fans protested the move. Ever Mayor W. Wilson Goode supported leaving the statue at the museum. But museum officials have noted the statue's disproportionately large feet and overall small size relative to the museum in saying it was not an appropriate home.

### U.S. court keeps gay soldier ban